THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 25TH OCTOBER.

THE PIONEER contains a very interesting account of Sir Richard Temple's visit to Sikkim. The Raja is a boy of about sixteen years of age, small in stature and not forward in manners. He welcomed the Lieutenant Governor in proper style, and as no first interview after a journey would be complete, according to Sikkim notions, without a concomitant repast, it was duly remembered. The *Pioneer's* correspondent gives the following description of the repast:

"It may interest you to hear that Sikkim cookery, derived through Thibet from China, is by no means to be despised, and that you may fare much worse than in eating their soup composed of maccaroni and mince, with chopsticks. Spirituous liquor, not unlike our Chartreuse liqueur, is produced on such occasions instead of common Murwa beer. For bread, long devices of baked flour and butter are prepared very crisp and excellent. The viands are introduced and removed on trays; and the ceremony is not necessarily one of long duration."

After eating commenced business.

THE RAJAH'S mother appeared soon after the Lieutenant Governor's arrival, to pay her respects and make his acquaintance. She is described a well-preserved lady, in the prime of life, radiant with smiles and good humour, and betokening, by her questions and attention, a shrewd interest in all that was going on. She was adorned with a magnificent headdress, consisting chiefly of pearls and torquoises. The whole erection was a red frame-work of a semi-circular shape, nearly a foot high and more than a foot broad; at the top there were nearly 20 strings of pearls looped up, then a vacant space, then more rows of pearls with turquoises at intervals, the pearls hanging down over the ears, from which again were suspended large diamond-shaped ornaments of turquoise, with smaller settings of the same stone attached.

THE PIONEER'S Correspondent furnishes the following description of the scenery which he witnessed in his ascent of the Chola Pass:

"It is said to be over 2,000 feet higher that Chomnago, *i. e.*, about 14 500 feet above the sea-level. The mountain of the same name is probably identical with that called Dopenti, and this name is properly the name of the pass. You must not suppose that this ascent entails anything like the same danger or trouble attending an ascent to a similar altitude in Europe. Two hours of not very severe walking are sufficient to reach the cairn with flags on it, which marks the boundary between Sikkim and Thibet, and cold though it undoubtedly is no snow remains unthawed when the sun has fairly risen. The rarity of the atmosphere is apt to give headaches to those who are unaccustomed to severe exercise at high elevations. The road to the pass itself is indeed beset with no danger whatever. There are no yawning precipices to try the nerves; no treacherous snow-fields or glaciers; the path is a well-beaten track along the side of a rocky hill, passing anon by the edge of lakes, which are held up between the spurs radiating from the water-shed. There is no difficulty in riding a yak or a pony to the top of this pass. The view from it is not so striking, but by ascending a few hundred feet further in the direction of the boundary, perhaps one of the very finest views in the whole south-eastern Himalayan range is obtained. Immediately at the spectator's feet lies the Chokan (or Tchokan) Lake, with its deep blue which only the Bay of Naples could rival. The principal mountain in front is the Chaudoo Kang of Bhootan, behind is Kinchinjunga; to the north-west is Dopentican, with much less snow, however, than might have been expected; while down in the hollows in front is pointed out a forest beyond which Choombee, the Sikkim Rajah's summer retreat, is said to be situated. Fancy yourself at this altitude, and with these surroundings,—the cold bare rocks and the grand stillness; on the one side Thibet, the dependency of China with its policy of exclusiveness; on the other side, Sikkim with its British associations and contact with a progressive civilization. Any one possessed of the least imagination could hardly fail to be moved by the grandeur of the scene, the *religio loci*, as the ancients would have expressed it, and the sense of the sublime in nature."

Sir Richard Temple has a keen sense of the beautiful and the sublime, and he has the skill to reproduce with pen and pencil what he sees with his eyes. We hope to see at the next Art Exhibition some of his happy hits and sketches of the grand scenery he enjoyed.

WE ARE told that the matters of business discussed with the Raja's mother and the minister were the forest conservancy in Sikkim; the relations of that State with its neighbours, Nepal, Bhootan and Thibet; the roads in their country, and especially the trade route through one corner of it, bridges, &c. The following presents were exchanged: the Sikkim Rajah and his belongings giving to His Honor and staff a pony a-piece, a complete suit of apparel and numerous bundles of cloth to each; receiving in return such things as a musical box, mechanical toys, knives and forks, revolvers, looking-glasses rugs, watches, and boxes of Darjeeling tea.

THE STATUE of the late David Hare has been removed from the court-yard of the Sanscrit College to the Presidency College compound. It remains uncovered. The marble we fear will suffer unless a cover is put up for its protection from sun and rain.

THE AUTHORITIES of the Calcutta University have postponed the date of the commencement of the B. A. and B. L. Examinations from Monday, 27th December 1875, to Wednesday, 5th January 1876, owing to the approaching visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

THE Eugenie jewels, which were lately the property of the Empress Eugenie, and which were sent first to Bombay and ultimately to Calcutta for disposal, have, we learn, been purchased by the Maharajah of Patiala from Messrs. Hamilton and Co.

TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER.

THE Barabanki Railway case has been decided. The facts of the case are as follows:

"On 14th May 1874, the village of Gobra in the Barabanki district was on fire. This fire, it was alleged was caused by a spark from the railway engine attached to the mixed train proceeding from Nawabgunj to Byramghat. The villagers whose property was destroyed by fire claimed compensation from the Agent of the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway Company. The Agent refused to pay compensation, and hence fourteen suits were brought by the villagers against the Company. The subject matter of these suits does in no way represent the pecuniary question involved in them which, it is said, concerns some lakhs of rupees. The suits were brought in the Court of the Assistant Commissioner of Barabanki.

Captain Marett, who tried the case, delivered his judgment on Thursday last. He has found (1) that the fire was caused by a spark from the engine; (2) that the Company has no express statutable power to run locomotives; (3) that the Company is under no statutory duty to run them (4) that they are liable in damages; (5) decrees damages in full. As the Government has taken up the case to raise the principle determined, each party to bear his own costs."

THE ENORMOUS advantage, which the coal-fields of Lower Bengal confer on the East Indian Railway, can be judged from Mr. Juland Danvers' report in which he states that fuel is delivered on that line at 6*s.* 9*d.* per ton, while it costs the Bombay and Madras lines and those of Central India from £2. 6*s.*, to £2. 18*s.* per ton. In other words the East Indian Railway Company procure their coal at two annas per maund, while the other lines have to pay nearly one rupee per maund for it.

COUNT E. G. DALVIELLA has been appointed special correspondent to *Independance Belge* to report the Prince of Wales's Indian tour. Count d'Alviella, says the *Pall Mall*, is an accomplished political writer and scientific traveller, and he is also a member of the Provincial Council of Brabant. His appointment proves the importance attached on the Continent to the Prince's Indian visit.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE says that a short time ago, Mr. E. B. Peacock, late Judge of the Delhi Small Cause Court, got himself into some trouble with a Mussoori tradesman's bill, and the matter was freely discussed at Delhi. A little later, two or three plaints were filed against the Judge in his own Court, and the plaints were either returned or the Court declined to act on them. The plaints, so summarily disposed of, were then presented to the Assistant Commissioner who referred to Mr. T. W. Smyth, the Deputy Commissioner, for instructions. The Deputy Commissioner reported the matter to the Commissioner, and the Commissioner, to the Punjab Government, and the Lieutenant Governor has cancelled his leave for which Mr. Peacock had applied. It is stated that Mr. Peacock applied and obtained a copy of the report to which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor had referred, and on the advice of a professional gentleman has now sued Mr. Delmerick for slander, and Mr. Smyth for libel. How would a native officer been treated in a case like this?

SIR MADHAVA RAO made the following pregnant speech on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New College at Baroda:

"Sir Richard Meade, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—It is now my privilege to offer to you, Sir Richard Meade, the cordial acknowledgments of His Highness the Maharajah, and of Her Highness the Maharanee, for the prominent part you have kindly taken in this ceremony. That part, to a prosaic observer, may seem very simple and inelaborate though performed by you with such goodwill and with so much technical precision. But reflecting minds will look beyond the meagre mechanical process. There is more in the bricks and mortar you have dealt with than meets the eye. What we have just witnessed is an unmistakably practical recognition on the part of the State of one of the most signal necessities of a progressive age—the necessity of combining *wisdom* with power. It is an unequivocal recognition of the capital fact that the right exercise of regal functions requires long previous preparation. The ceremony has a further significance of high political importance. It is the outcome of a genuine desire on the part of the British Government to preserve and perpetuate native principalities as useful members of the Imperial system. England repudiates ignorance as a basis of strength or stability. England is not the power that seeks security from darkness. England desires to be a great illuminating agent, and bids princes and people alike, be enlightened and happy. This bright and bracing morning is I hope typical of the new career, the foundation of which has been just laid. It is an auspicious circumstance that the foundation has been laid by the hand of ripe wisdom and enlarged experience—the hand that has done many a beneficent deed during thirty long years—the hand equally powerful to wield the sword of the soldier, the pen of the statesman, and as now witnessed, the trowel of the mason! The energy of Mr. Hill will soon complete the appointed superstructure. There is every reason to feel the sanguine hope that the young Maharajah who has already given indications of uncommon capacity, will therein under God's blessing, make acquisitions infinitely more precious than the gems shining resplendent on his breast—that he will realize the ideal of a wise and virtuous ruler of a regenerated kingdom. Permit me now to offer to all present the thanks of the Maharaja and the Maharanee for the friendly sympathy you have manifested by your participation in this ceremony. As for you, Sir Richard Meade I have already thanked you. Let me only reveal to you what you have not thought of. In laying the foundation of the Maharajah's school, you have unconsciously, laid the foundation of a splendid monument of your own beneficent connexion with this principality."

God grant Sir Madhava Rao success!

THE FOLLOWING comparison of the cost of the Railways in the United Kingdom and in India is given in Mr. Danvers' report. The capital invested in the railways of the United Kingdom is £609,995,000 expended upon 16,449 miles of rails open for traffic; in India the capital, exclusive of stores in hand, was £92,395,000, and the open mileage 6,142. The cost of construction per mile in England was, therefore, over £37,000; in India it was under £15,000. But the recent Indian branch lines on the 5 *f.* 6 in. gauge have been built at a little over £4,000 per mile, exceeding the expenditure on rolling stock.

THE WEALTHIEST MAN in the world is a Mr. Mackay. The wealthiest woman in the United States is said to be the wife of Professor Gammell, formerly of Rhode Island. She is understood to have an income of £200,000 a year. Her father's estate, which she has inherited, is said to be fully £4,000,000. The professor her husband has no longer any necessity to profess.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER.

THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR seems to be sowing the seeds of a free press in his State. An official recently complained to the Dewan of certain severe remarks published by the *Tofah-i-Kashmir* and was informed by the Prime Minister in question that the Press was free! Hurrah for progress!

ACCORDING to *Indian Public Opinion* there seems to have been a resignation epidemic amongst the recently appointed Munsiffs in the Punjab. The appointments have hardly been in existence two months when four native gentlemen who were appointed sent in their resignations, and from what we hear these are not the only ones who purpose resigning. What can be the cause of this new form of rinderpest?

THE LONDON ATHENÆUM has the following:

"The visit of the Prince of Wales to India will, probably, prove of literary as well as of general interest. We trust next week to publish the first of some notes on the subject, coming from scholars in all parts of India, many of them natives. We hope to record the principal literary works by Indian authors which the royal visit will give birth to, the Oriental curiosities which are to be presented to the Prince, the tone of the vernacular press, &c. Hindu poems in honour of the Prince's visit have already been published, and more than a million native school-children will seek to be in some sort recognized by, or even examined before, His Royal Highness. In Hindu temples and Mohammedan mosques novel services are to be inaugurated, and we hope to be able to furnish accurate details of the prayers and ritual. In short, whilst other journals give to their readers their accounts of the popular side of the Prince's progress, we shall note its literary phases."

We have seen a Sanscrit poem composed by a learned Pundit of East Bengal for presentation to the Prince which is quite original in conception and execution. We hope it will reach its destination.

ACCORDING to the *London Times* the following is understood to be the route which the Prince of Wales will pursue on his tour to India:

"Leave Aden for Bombay, Nov. 2; visit Bombay, Nov. 8; visit Beypoor, Nov. 23; Bangalore, Dec. 2; Madras, Dec. 6

Tuticorin, Dec. 8; Colombo, Dec. 11; Trincomalee, Dec. 17; Calcutta, Dec. 23; Barrackpore, Jan. 4; Benares, Jan. 4; Lucknow, Jan. 6, Cawnpore, Jan. 10; Delhi, Jan. 11; Umritsur, Jan. 20; Lahore, Jan. 21; Jamoo, Jan 24; Lahore, Jan. 27; Saharunpore, Jan, 28; Paneeput, Jan. 28; Agra, Jan. 29; Gwalior, Feb. 3, Agra, Feb. 5; Ajmere, Feb. 7; Jeypore, Fab. 11; Bareily, Feb. 13; Lucknow, Feb. 29; Allahabad, Feb. 29; Jubbulpore, March 2; Kundwah, March 7, Indore, March 9; Kundwah, March 11, Ellora, March 12; Dowlutabad, March 14, Bombay, March 15, Poona, March 19; and Sattara, March 19.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Nanabhai Haridas has been re-appointed to act as a Judge of the Bombay High Court during the absence of Mr. Justice Pinhey.

MESSRS. SMITH and Elder announce for speedy publication Dr. W. W. Hunter's biography of the late Lord Mayo, and his edition, with a memoir and notes, of "Essays on the External policy of India" by the late J. W. S. Wyllie, "sometime Acting Foreign Secretary to the Government of India." By another publishing firm we are promised, with maps and illustrations, an elaborate account of "The two expeditions to Western Yunan, commanded by Major Sladen and Colonel Browne," by Dr. Anderson, Director of the Indian Museum and Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the Medical College of this city.

DR. ANDERSON contributes to the October number of *Macmillan*, on the above mentioned interesting subject, a paper which may be considered a foretaste of his book. He seems to think that what evidence there is rather militates against the theory that the King of Burma and the Chinese Governor of Yunan were, either or both of them, privy to the murder of poor Margary.

THURSDAY, 28TH OCTOBER.

WE HAVE much pleasure in noticing another case of native liberality. Rai Kali Narain Chowdry Bahadur of Bhawal has nobly come forward with an offer of Rs. 20,000 for the purpose of enabling the Mitford Hospital Committee to purchase a site for the construction of a new female ward in connection with the Hospital. Rai Kali Narain supplements the princely grant of Khajeh Ausunoollah Khan Bahadur made towards the improvement of the Dacca Hospital. The donation has been acknowledged by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in handsome terms. We hear that Rai Kalinarian will be made a Raja.

A CORRESPONDENT from Banda sends us some harrowing tales about the way in which the provisions of Act XIX. of 1873 that is the N. W. P. Revenue Act are being enforced. As the letter is not authenticated, we cannot publish it.

A CORRESPONDENT from Cuttack says:

"We do not know what the clouds intend doing with us. This year it has rained so much that if the rains do not cease in a week more most serious loss both to property and life it is imagined, will be caused. The clouds now day and night pour out in incessant torrents and it is with the greatest difficulty that people can stir out of doors. This combined with neglected state of almost all the public roads and lanes of this town is a source of great trouble and inconvenience to every body."

WE TAKE the following paragraph from the *Pioneer*:

"In the *Pall Mall Gazette* there is an interesting account of some projects for the invasion of India which were devised at the beginning of this century. The Emperor Paul tried to persuade Napoleon to join with the Russians in the extirpation of the English from India. A force of 35,000 Frenchmen, with an equal number of Russians, were to set out for the northern shores of the Caspian, cross that sea from north to south, and then march across Persia and Afghanistan into India. The natives were to be conciliated, and the English driven out. This magnificent project of the half crazy Emperor was too ambitious for Napoleon, and Paul made up his mind to manage the invasion by himself. His next scheme was a very remarkable one, a strange mixture of genius and lunacy. He meant to let loose the whole host of Don Cossacks. They were to make their way through Khiva and Bokhara and thence on to India. He gave orders for this huge emigration, but he never lived to see his plan carried out. The Cossacks were to have started in May 1801. On March 23rd the Emperor was assassinated. The idea of a Franco-Russian invasion of India was revived by Napoleon, who in 1807 suggested it to the Emperor Alexander I. at Tilsit. European complications put a stop to this second scheme, which might well have succeeded.

WE ARE sorry to notice the death of Dr. Black, the eminent philologist. He passed the greater part of his life, and died, in South Africa. There he prepared his "Comparative Grammar of the South African Languages," and other kindred works. He translated and edited much that had been collected by Sir George Grey on the Malayo-Polynesian group of languages.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA states that a marriage was solemnized the other day at the court of the Deputy Commissioner, Shillong, between a military officer belonging to the 44th Bengal Infantry and a Khassi woman. This bids fair for the Khassi ladies about the Assam capital.

THE probable accommodation that will have to be provided on Railways for H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and suite during his tour in India is represented by the following figures:—

H R H the Prince of Wales and party	...	20
Staff	...	10
European Servants	...	25
Ditto Postilions	...	12
Native Establishment.		
Jemadars, chapprassies, and Khitmudgars	...	40
Personal Servants (possible more)	...	100
Horses	...	100
Carriages	...	9
Attendants on Horses	...	150
Coachman and Postillions	...	12

FRIDAY, 29TH OCTOBER.

WE ARE SORRY to read the following in the *Behar Herald*:

"The prospects of crops in Behar are again very alarming and have been the source of serious anxiety to the people. The paddy crop has suffered seriously for want of rain, and the yield will be almost nil; the same will, it is feared, be the fate of the Rabbi for the want of moisture."

THE SAME JOURNAL does not understand why some of its contemporaries praise the new rules of Sir Richard Temple for admission into the Native Civil Service and condemned those of Sir George Campbell. The reason is obvious. Sir George's rules had a tendency to lower the educational standard, while Sir Richard's have an opposite tendency. We however entirely agree with our contemporary that in the interests of the public service and in justice to the educated natives the Sub-Deputy grade ought to be abolished. Sir Richard seems to lean on that side, as he has lately appointed some gentlemen to the office of Deputy Magistrate without making them pass through the noviciate of Sub-Deputy.

THE HON'BLE MISS BARING is said to be preparing for publication (after Lord Northbrook has relinquished the Viceroyalty of India) an "Indian Journal" to revive hereafter the reminiscences of a residence in India. The Hon'ble Miss Eden set an example in this respect.

WE GIVE below the names of the principal subscribers to the Prince of Wales' Reception and Memorial Fund at Patna:

		Rs.
The Maharajah of Doomraon and his son Rajah Radha Prosad Singh Bahadur	...	25,000
The Maharaja of Hatwa	...	25,000
The Maharajah of Gidhore and his son Kumar Sheo Pershad Singh	...	20,000
The Maharajah of Bettiah	...	16,000
The Maharajah of Deo	...	10,000
The Rajah Hurhollab Narain Singh Bahadur	...	10,000
Syed Lootf Ali Khan	...	10,000
Rajah Prolahd Sen Bahadoor	...	5,000
Syed Welaet Ali Khan	...	5,000
The total subscriptions amount to Rs.	...	140,000

THERE IS ONE FEATURE in the proceedings of the Prince of Wales' Reception and Memorial Committee at Patna, which we do not like, we mean the predominance of the official element. The Commissioner is elected President and Mr. Mangles Vice-President The following Resolution was also adopted:

"That a Sub-Committee be formed in each District with the Collector as President, for the furtherance of the object of the General Committee, composed of such European and native gentlemen as the Collector may think proper. The Sub-Committee will communicate their proceedings from time to time to the Secretary of the Select Committee at Bankipore. Any voluntary donations which may be offered to the Sub-Committee will be received by the General Committee."

All this looks like official pressure. We have had enough scandals in Calcutta about official pressure to obtain subscriptions, and we hope that the same scenes will not be enacted in Behar.

THE FOLLOWING notification has been issued for a Levee at Bombay:

"His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will hold a Levee at the New Secretariat, in Bombay, at 4-30 P. M. on Wednesday, the 10th November 1875.

All Civil, Naval, and Military officers and other gentlemen, European and Native, purposing to attend the Levee are requested to notify their intention to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, by letter, addressed to Government House, Parell, between the 20th October and the 3rd November.

The letter should state the name, place of residence, and address in Bombay, and the office, rank, profession or occupation of the writer; and should be very legibly written.

The cards to be presented at the Levee will be issued by the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, and will be transmitted by post or messenger on or before the 6th of November to the address in Bombay of the officers and gentlemen who will attend the Levee."

The *Indu Prokash* thus comments on the above:

"We doubt not that the presentation of the Rajas and Chiefs to the Prince at a levee of the kind indicated by the above will be taken as a dishonour."

The truth is oriental chiefs and princes do not appreciate the compliment of inviting themselves in.

IT IS PROPOSED to make a box of Indian woods of various colors mounted with silver and gold to hold the Calcutta Address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The design, which has been prepared by Messrs. Cooke and Kelvy of this town, is pretty, and the work will be executed by them. The whole cost is not to exceed Rs. 2,500, which will be borne by the Municipal fund.

SATURDAY, 30TH OCTOBER.

THE ARRANGEMENTS for the expected increase of the Indian episcopate, according to the London Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, are now nearly completed. The chief difficulties hitherto have been legal ones, but these are to be overcome by consecrations held in India. The Rev. R. Caldwell, D. D., L. L. D., and the Rev. E. Sargeant, D. D, both South Indian missionaries of more than thirty-five years' standing are the coadjutor bishops-designate, though the names of their respective sees have not yet been finally determined.

WE HEAR complaints about the constitutions of a Committee appointed by the Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court for the selection of Mooktears. It is said that some experienced pleaders have been excluded from the Committee.

THE FRIEND OF BURMA understands that some branches or portions of the sacred peepul tree at Gya were taken back, by the late mission to that shrine, which the King of Burma has, it is stated, ordered to be utilised in forming an image of Gaudama. We hear that on completion of the image the King intends leaving his palace to worship the same at some Pagoda or shrine where it is to be set up. The occasion is also to be marked by grand festivities.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL has sanctioned the proposal of the Port Commissioners for the construction of a Tramway on the Strand Bank. We repeat that this is a gross breach of faith with the Justices. Will the Port Commissioners purchase the stock and block from the Justices and thus compensate them to some extent?

THERE IS a discussion going on among the subscribers to the Prince of Wales' Reception and Memorial Fund at Patna on the subject of its application. The Maharaja of Doomraon proposed the establishment of an Industrial School, but the Maharaja of Bettiah suggested a building for the Patna College. We do hope that the latter will give in. Sir Richard Temple has an idea of giving a practical turn to education in this province. This fund may be made a neucleus for establishing a Technical College at Patna.

WE NOTICE that the Cashier of the Government Central Press, Babu Cally Coomar Dey, has been appointed Cashier to the Prince of Wales during the period of His Royal Highness's sojourn in India, on a salary of Rs. 500 per month.

THE PIONEER says that the balance of the Famine Relief Fund in Calcutta, amounting to about twenty-eight lakhs, has, most probably, been nearly all paid over to the Bengal Government since the famine ended. This cannot be true, for we hear that there is a balance of 7 lakhs over and above the payments made to Government.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Charivari* contains a portrait of J. B. R. It is a good likeness. We give below the letter-press:

"Several of the oldest residents in Calcutta have told us that they can recollect Mr. J. B. Roberts forty-five years ago, but this we know to be an impossibility, as he only arrived in the country in 1840. Besides, a glance at the man and his robust but still active figure, would at once contradict such an assertion. But it tends to show how thoroughly Mr. Roberts has become indentified in the minds of the residents of Calcutta as part and parcel of our city. Mr. Roberts first came to this country in the Bengal Sappers and Miners, and here, no doubt, he laid the foundation of his really good knowledge of engineering. He joined the Police as a Deputy Superintendent in 1849, and in that service he rose to be the Deputy Commissioner. It is an acknowledged fact that under his rule the Calcutta Police first became an efficient body. In 1856 he was first appointed as a Justice of the Peace, and it is in this latter capacity that he has rendered the most efficient services to the rate-payers of Calcutta, though we must not omit to mention the satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the duties of Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, Coroner, and lately of Superintendent of Stamps and Stationary. With all these qualifications to recommend him, it may seem strange that Mr. Roberts has made for himself many enemies. That such is the case, he would not deny himself, though his enemies are chiefly amongst those who are accustomed to regard themselves as "the heaven born." Independance is Mr. Roberts' distinguishing trait of character; independence in the cause of all that *he* considers right, and unfortunately his views do not always coincide with those of others, whilst his manner of asserting his views is not always in the best taste. No one is perfect, but few possess more good qualities to redeem his faults than Mr. Roberts. The distinguishing trait of his character is thoroughness. Having put his hand to the plough, he will never turn back, but complete his work as well as he is able. Of a genial and social disposition, he is a general favorite in society, and the number of those in Calcutta who would testify to the genuine charity he has bestowed upon them is legion. Calcutta may well be proud of him as a representative citizen.—*Buck.*"

A NOTIFICATION has been issued by the President of Council with the Viceroy's concurrence directing the firing of royal salutes at every fort or cantonment in British India, where salutes are authorized on the receipt of telegraphic information of the landing of the Prince of Wales at Bombay, where he is expected to arrive on the 8th November.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 22nd October.—The Foreign Office has received a telegram dated 18th, from Mr. Wade from Shanghai, stating

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that the guarantees obtained from China comprise a Chinese Mission to England with a letter of apology for the Yunan outrage and a safe passage to and across the Burmah frontier for the Mission of Enquiry to be sent to Yunan. Farther the Commissioner of Customs has been instructed to report fully respecting the taxation on foreign trade, and the Chinese Government engage that when the enquiry is concluded a competent Chinese Officer shall confer with British officials on the regulation of frontier trade between Burmah and China. A Decree was issued on the 10th instant, calling the attention of the Provincial Government to the passport clause in the treaties alluding to Mr. Margary's murder, and to the consequent appointment of the Commission. Mr. Wade returns to Pekin in about a week after having despatched Messrs. Grosvenor and Baber to Yunan.

Colonel Henry Yule has been appointed Member of Council for India.

London 23rd October.—The Prince of Wales has arrived at Port Said,—The rainy and tempestuous weather continues in England. The rivers Trent and Ouse are overflowing and causing serious damage and loss of life.

Berlin, 21st October.—The Bavarian Liberal Ministry have resigned owing to the address voted by the narrow Ultramontane majority of the Chamber. The King has refused to accept the resignation, and has likewise addressed the Ultramontane,

Cairo, 26th October.—The Prince of Wales arrived here on Saturday evening, and was received at the railway station by the Khedive. On Sunday he visited the Khedive and gave reception to the English residents and afterwards dined at the Palace on Monday. His Royal Highness conferred the Order of the Star of India on the hereditary Prince, in presence of the Khedive. His Royal Highness started to-day for Suez and was accompanied by the Khedive as far as the railway station,

Shangkai, 26th October.—Messrs. Grosvenor and Baber started yesterday on their mission to Yunan, and will be followed on the 30th instant by Mr. Davenport, who joins them at Hankow. All three will proceed through Yunan into Burmah, after investigation of the outrage on Mr. Margary.

St. Petersburgh, 27th October.—The Khokandese have dethroned Nasreddin. The second Russian exploring expedition which started in the middle of September, have reached the vicinity of the mouth of the Attreck.

London, October 29th.—The Duchess of Edinburgh was safely delivered of a Princess this morning, The *Morning Post* states that the Army Retirement Scheme provides that no retirement shall take place until after the seven years' service and officers then retiring, shall receive a lump sum, according to a certain scale,

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. Nubya-Vakeel—a drama in Bengali by Romanath Sanyal. 2. Subdakulpadruma or the Sanskrit Dictionary of the late Raja Sir Radhakant Bahadur, Vol. III Nos. 13 and 14. 3. The National Magazine Vol. I No. 34 for July and August 1875. The last mentioned periodical has appeared late, but there are some readable articles in the numbers before us. We are requested to mention that it may be had at the New Wellington Press, No. 38, Simla, Suripara Lane.

THINGS without soul may be represented in pictures, says Muhammad.

Women are things without soul, according to Muhammad.

Ergo it must follow that according to the Prophet women may be represented in pictures.

This syllogism is however too much for the editor of the *Indian Daily News*, who considers it as a piece of novel cynicism. When will Sheffield publish his exposition of the principles of logic and rattening for the edification of the world?

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a Bengali periodical on the model of the *Royal Tourist* projected by a native gentleman. We wish it every success.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1875.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

THE difficulties of Indian administration are multiplying rapidly. When the communication between England and India was at an interval of three months, when the central power in this country was not clogged by so many local Governments, when these local Governments were again less enfranchised, when the attention of Government was absorbed with wars and conquests, when the intelligence of the people was just awakening, and when the press was beginning to lisp, the Governor General was all-powerful, and however controlled by the Court of Directors in momentous matters there was sufficient latitude left to him in local administration consistent with his high position and self-respect. Steam and electricity have, however, produced a revolution as much in the political as in the material world. Communication with England, if conducted through the wire, is a question of six hours or even less. It is not therefore to be wondered at that there is now more interference on the part of the India House with the Indian Government than there was in times gone by. Whether it is for good or evil we will consider hereafter, but one thing is clear that the diminution of distance between England and India has increased the difficulties of Indian administration. These difficulties are partly the outcome of the theory of Indian Government and partly of European Civilization. In theory the Indian Government is despotic, as despotic as an Eastern potentate, but in practice this despotism is tempered by a wholesome regard for public opinion. Now, wherever a parcel of Englishmen congregate, there they carry their attachment to national institutions, and of these institutions none has a greater hold upon them than the freedom of speech and writing. They claim their right to discuss freely and unreservedly the actions and measures of the "powers that be." This free criticism has naturally a very healthy effect upon the governors and the governed. The East India Company was very jealous of this English institution, but light at last forced its way. The work thus began by independent Englishmen at one end was seconded by the Government at the other end by the diffusion of English education among the people. Althogh unfortunately for the country there has not been that amalgamation of races and classes, which a community of civilization and thought ought to foster, the moral force to which both Englishmen and Indians appeal in the assertion of their rights and privileges and for the protection of their interests and properties has been the same, and considering the despotic character of the Government this intelligence of the people has been a practical difficulty in Indian administration. The Government cannot undertake a single measure or issue a single order without being sharply criticized by both the British and Indian subjects of the Queen. We admit that these criticisms are not always intelligent, but as criticisms they do their work. The Government weighs well every measure before it initiates it lest it should provoke angry criticisms. And Indian criticisms have latterly gained great strength by the helping hand which the leading journals of the United Kingdom have condescended to give. The Indian Government, if it likes, may pooh-pooh Indian opinion, but it cannot afford to treat English opinion with the same indifference or contempt. Then the interests of India are so varied and complicated that even the best-informed and best-intentioned are not always able to solve them or reconcile them satisfactorily. There are now several local Governments, which are charged with the conservation of local interests. These have gradually acquired great freedom and power, and the central authority is not unfrequently put to its wit's end to keep them under due control. The Presidency Governments are the more difficult to deal with. They correspond direct with the Secretary of State for India, and are in so far independent of the Government of India. And yet the latter is responsible for the good government of the whole empire. Suppose the Bombay riots of last year had been fanned into a flame of rebellion the Government of India would have had to cope with that disaster, and yet it could not interfere with the local Government without grave and emergent reason. The local Governments are again confronted with representatives of varied and powerful interests. Take Bengal for instance. Here we have firstly the independent Europeans. They are represented by the merchants, indigo-planters and tea-planters; they have influential associations and organs in the press; they can talk as loud as they may wish and always make themselves heard. Then there are the European Missionaries. They too are a powerful body. They are an intelligent, thoughtful and active body, and they have the Exeter Hall to appeal to. Of the children of the soil there are the zemindars, who are intelligent, loyal and obedient, but tenacious of the rights which the law has conferred upon them. The ryots, though not advanced in education, are now shewing their intelligence and strength in rent-unions. Then there is the whole body of educated natives, among whom English education has planted a bond of union, and who whatever their sympathies and antipathies on particular questions, are actuated by a common sentiment for the country's good. The Government can pursue no single line of policy, which can harmonize these jarring elements. The result is that it temporizes, and in temporizing it does not gain the good will of any one of them. Of course the local Government is primarily responsible for dealing with these local bodies, but the Supreme Government does not altogether escape responsibility. If the local Government fails in conciliating them or meeting their just wishes, it is the duty of the Supreme Government to correct its subordinate, and the want of success in the one necessarily reflects upon the other. Then the old tricks of the political stage have fallen into disuse. War, however injurious, had the good effect of diverting the public mind from the shortcomings of practical administration. Public attention was formerly occupied with the details of wars and conquests, and those who were capable of bestowing their thoughts upon the progress of peace, found a higher excitement. But since the Mutiny of '57 opportunities for such diversion have passed away. We do not now hear of bloody battles or crushing conquests. The empire is peace, and peace enhances the difficulties of the art of Government. The old wars and conquests have greatly enhanced the liabilities of Government. The re-conquest of North India in '57 still more increased these liabilities. While therefore it is incumbent upon the Government of the present day to meet the liabilities of old, it is its duty at the same time so to develope the resources of the country as to raise the necessary revenue without imposing grievous burdens upon the people. Of course this is not an easy task. Whatever the short-comings of the East India Company's Government, it did not recklessly multiply taxes. It kept the people in pretty good contentment by its moderation in taxation. The military revolt of the Sepoys was an outburst of religious feeling, and where it was joined in by rabbles from independent states, it was a protest against its wicked annexation policy. But peace in these days of civilized progress is even more expensive than war. Such an assertion may be paradoxical, but it is nevertheless *true*. Society cannot stand still; it must progress, and there can be no improvement without expenditure of rupees, annas, and pice. Not a road can be made, not a canal can be cut, not a tank or well can be dug, not a railway can be built, not a bridge can be put up, not a comfortable barrack can be constructed, not a commodious court house can be erected, no strong police can be quartered, no good executive or judiciary can be organized, no municipal institution can be extended, in short no improvement can be carried out without money, and money cannot be had without recourse to taxation. If we add up the expenses of wars, conquests and annexations since the establishment of the British power in the East down to its temporary disruption in '57 and its subsequent re-establishment, and compare the aggregate with the amount laid out on works of progress during the epoch of peace, which has succeeded that of war, we mean in railways, telegraphs, roads, and other communications, in improved administration, in the diffusion of education, and in the development of the resources of the soil, we will find that the cost of peace has far more exceeded that of war. And this ever-growing expense during peace is a serious difficulty of administration. The relations of the Government with the Native States are another difficulty. These states now constitute a part and parcel of the imperial system. The Indian Government is under treaty obligations to protect them from both internal and external attacks, and this very circumstance has clothed it with a serious responsibility. If a Native State is misgoverned, its subjects cannot right themselves by an appeal to arms, for if they make such an attempt they will be instantly put down by the strong arm of the British Government. Is the latter then to fold its arms and allow the rights of masses of innocent and loyal people in native principalities to be trampled upon? On the other hand may not injudicious interference with the Native states do more harm than good? Again, however despotic in theory the Government may be, it has been forced by public opinion to make considerable concessions. It has thrown open its councils to the non-official

classes, but it dares not act up to its professions. It is true that it invites non-official gentlemen, both European and Native, to the Council, but it generally selects such agents as may prove innocuous. It does not like free and full discussion, and if there is an attempt made, there is at once its standing official majority set to work to muzzle it. It is the same in municipal corporations; a few competent and independent men are over-weighted with a herd of incapable and *jo-hukum* men, who follow the official beck and outvote the good and true. Thus there is a constant struggle between despotism and enlightened rule.

We have pointed out a few of the difficulties, which beset the administration of British India. These difficulties are more likely to increase than diminish. But they are not such as cannot be overcome. The intelligence which the liberal policy of our rulers has diffused among the people, while it has taught them to see more clearly than before its defects, has also enabled them to appreciate far better its merits. However dissatisfied the educated natives may be with particular measures they are grateful for the real blessings which the Government has conferred upon them. They are now conscious of their individuality as citizens of the great British Empire, of the rights which allegiance to the British Crown confers, of the political status which their country has gained by its connection with one of the foremost nations of the world. One thing is clear, the British Government has advanced so far in the liberal treatment of its Indian subjects that it cannot recede without compromising its position and character. Great as are the difficulties of Indian administration they may be successfully overcome, if the Government will take the people into its confidence, if it will cherish their honest and legitimate aspirations, if it will redress their just grievances, and if it will, to parody the words of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, seek solace in their comfort, pride in their progress, and happiness in their prosperity and contentment.

THE EXECUTIVE *vrs.* THE JUDICIARY.

ONCE more the battle between the Executive and the Judiciary was fought in the Supreme Legislative Council. As a matter of course the battle was all on one side. Led by Mr. Hope, who was seconded by Mr. Hobhouse, it was concluded by the Viceroy. The occasion was the submission of the report of the Select Committee on the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. The epoch of Constitutional Government, we might say, passed away with Lords Dalhousie and Canning. Despotic as Lord Dalhousie was, accustomed to assert his own will, and determined to enforce his own views, he however respected law and readily gave in where he found his own opinion in conflict with law. There were some notable examples of Lord Dalhousie's constitutionalism. We remember the well known case of the Burmese fugitives, in which he did not hesitate to censure the executive authority in the strongest terms for overriding the established law. The Bengal Chowkidari law was another instance. It was Lord Dalhousie himself, who proposed the enactment of a Rural Police Bill for Bengal, with the view of rendering the land-owners liable for the maintenance of the Village Police, but Mr., afterward Sir, Barnes Peacock, pointed out the tendency of the measure to infringe the Permanent Settlement, and His Lordship at once withdrew his proposal. Under His Lordship's guidance, and with the support of two such zealous constitutionalists as Mr. J. P. Grant, and Mr. Peacock, then Members of Council, the reign of law was promulgated with vigour. The Government of the day held that the epoch of Patriarchal Government had passed away, and that the day for Government by law and rule had arrived. Notwithstanding the storm which met Lord Canning in the early part of his career he stoutly adhered to that golden principle, and it was in his time that the influence of the Judiciary was extended by the amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudder Courts. Him succeeded Lord Elgin, who did not live long enough to leave the impress of his mind upon the administration. Next came Lord Lawrence, who was brought up in a school, the maxim of which was vigour beyond the law. He could not of course do much in his time, simply because the heads of the local Governments had been nurtured in a different school, and would not surrender their principles for the practice of the Punjab. But the spirit he had brought was silently working itself into the system of administration, and it received a powerful adhesion from Lord Mayo's Government, which was chiefly guided by the Brothers Stracheys, whose political creed was the exaltation of the executive. Lord Northbrook's Government did not at first shew any symptom of that diseased craving for power for the executive to the prejudice of the judiciary, which manifested itself with Lord Lawrence, but gradually it has, we are sorry to observe, fallen a prey to it. Nothing we submit could be more humiliating and disappointing than the debate in the Governor General's Council on the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill.

Mr. Hope who led the discussion admitted that "the early regulations of Bengal, Madras and Bombay left the acts of the officers of the Government open to question in the Civil Courts to a considerable extent," but, he continued, the "language used was so vague, and in some cases even so contradictory, that it was difficult to determine what were the exact limits intended by the legislators; and the fact that the Courts for a long series of years never practically interfered in technical questions connected with the revenue would seem to show that their powers were not in those days understood as having the extensive application which has of late been claimed for them." Be that as it might, the principle now contended for was without reservation recognized by the statesmen who consolidated the British Empire in the East, and it cannot but be considered a retrograde policy to pursue an opposite principle in these days of advanced ideas and enlightened public opinion. The Government now makes a distinction between the Civil Courts and the Revenue officers which seems to imply as if these two were antagonistic elements. It seems to forget that the same power which maintains the Revenue officers has also created the Civil Courts, that in fact these two branches of administration are but manifestations of the same authority, that they are the two arms of the central figure. Nothing could be more fallacious than the distinction which the Select Committee make between the functions of the Civil Courts and the Revenue officers. They remark:

"We consider that the true distinction between the province which is more proper to a Civil Court and that which is more proper to Revenue officers is to be found, not in the nature of the privilege claimed, but in the nature of the evidence by which it is supported. If the evidence consist of formal State documents, such as a law expressly creating or confirming an exemption, or a sanad, grant, judgment, or other formal adjudication affecting a particular property, then there can hardly be any dispute except one of construction, which is best remitted to a Civil Court. But where the question turns upon the validity of an alleged informal guarantee, or on the genuineness or authenticity of documents, though they may be said to emanate from a Native Government, or on oral evidence, and still more, when technical and special knowledge, historical research, or an accurate understanding of the political effect of political events, more or less distant and obscure, are indispensable, then we consider that the decision should rest with Revenue officers, and ultimately with the Government. For the Government is likely to have better information supplied to it, may select peculiarly skilled persons as its advisers; is not dependent on the facts and arguments which the parties may happen either to supply or to omit; is more accustomed to deal with affairs on a large scale and on a moral basis; and alone has a direct political responsibility for its actions, and is at liberty to guide itself thereby."

We cannot understand why a Civil Court is not competent to decide questions requiring technical and special knowledge, historical research or an accurate understanding of the political effect of political events, if proper documents and evidence be placed before it, and if the general principles be laid down by law. Mr. Hobhouse pursued the fallacy in a still more aggravated form. He remarked:

"In one sense a Collector who has passed an original decision is interested in maintaining one side of the case. He has committed himself to the view that he thought right, and then, though his private interests are not concerned in the matter, he is no longer an impartial judge on the question whether his view is right or wrong. But how does that consideration apply to the Commissioner who sits in appeal from him, or to the Governor in Council, who sits in ultimate appeal over all? Indeed, how does it apply to the Collector himself in framing his original judgment? We have been told to-day, and I have often been told before, that the comfort of the local officers is so directly affected by the contentment or discontentment of those among whom their lives are spent, that they have a strong motive for indulgent dealings with them. In fact the Government and its officers are only the representatives of the public, and whatever interests the public at large have, they have. They are interested in seeing that nobody escapes his fair share of the public burdens, and they are also interested in so dealing that people shall be contented, and not think themselves unjustly treated. The latter of these interests is quite as strong as the former. I can remember two important cases in which controversies of this kind have come up to the Government of India; and in each of these cases the latter class of considerations was quite as strongly advocated as the former, and in each case it was the prevailing element in the decision. In the case of private litigants all their passions and all their pecuniary and private interests are bound up in one issue of the suit; they have no balance to incline them to the other side. That is the reason which underlies the maxim that a man shall not be judge in his own cause. But to put the case between the officers of Government and the payers of land-revenue as one in which the former have either their passions or their pecuniary interests concerned all on one side, is to apply an excellent maxim to a very bad use."

It is perfectly true that the settlement officer has no pecuniary or personal interest in his act or decision, but he is nevertheless interested in it. Unfortunately whatever may be the principles of the Government the executive officers are accustomed to detach the interests of the people from those of the Government. They do not unfrequently look upon the people in the same light in which beasts of prey look upon their victims. They show by their action as if the money of the people were meant only to be brought into the State exchequer. Hence the high-handed proceedings and oppressive acts, which the settlement operations not unoften disclose. We can believe that the Supreme Government does not sympathise with the unjust and arbitrary proceedings of its subordinates, but the oppressions are nevertheless committed. Every oppressed man cannot approach the Government, and he is consequently compelled to treasure his grievance in his own bosom. The Civil Court therefore is a proper tribunal for the determination of disputes between the people and the Revenue officers. Its mind is unclouded by local prejudices and passions; it looks into things through the dry light of facts and arrives at judgment regardless of the opinion of Government or of any party. If the object of Government be to do justice to the people, surely it ought to give them the benefit of that machinery which is best calculated to fulfil that end.

We will take another opportunity to discuss the Amended Bill, but we cannot conclude without noticing the following observations of Mr. Hobhouse. Referring to the jurisdiction of the Civil Court in revenue matters in the old provinces of Bombay he remarks:

"Now we are told that this was the deliberate policy of a great statesman, Mountstuart Elphinstone; that it is the fundamental land-law of the country; and that to alter it will be to take away the feeling of security which the people have against the encroachments of an irresponsible executive. I say on the contrary that no system of revenue could possibly stand such a strain, and least of all such a system as that of the Indian land revenue, where the amount taken from the cultivators from time to time is and always has been, and necessarily must be, at the discretion of the Ruler until a permanent settlement is made. That Mountstuart Elphinstone did not intend to abandon this discretion is manifest from the passages that I have read. What precisely he did intend, how far he contemplated that matters connected with land-revenue should be contested by ordinary litigation, it is impossible to say, for the Regulation contradicts itself in more places than one. But one thing we may be pretty sure of, and that is that nobody would be more surprised than Mountstuart Elphinstone himself to find that, owing to unskilful processes in framing his law, the discretion of the Ruler might be exercised by the Civil Court, and further that, owing to administrative changes which he could not foresee, that Civil Court might consist of professional lawyers.

When we set up an income tax we did not allow every individual to dispute his liability in a Court of law; we take care to keep the decision in the hands of special officers, namely, the Revenue officers of the Government. And yet the amount of income tax is not discretionary with the Ruler, but is fixed by law; the controversies about it turn on the amount or nature of a man's income, facts which may be proved by ordinary evidence and handled by ordinary legal methods just as well as any other disputes about matters of fact. But even in such a case as this it is felt that the Treasury would be imperilled and the public service seriously embarrassed if every difference between the collector and payer of taxes could be the subject of a regular lawsuit.

On every ground then, both because it is a public necessity that the greatest source of Indian revenue, the land revenue, should be collected without vexatious litigation, and because its amount turns on considerations which are familiar to Revenue officers and are almost incapable of treatment by the methods of Courts of law, it is desirable that such Courts should not interfere in the kinds of question to which I have been referring. In parts of the presidency of Bombay they can so interfere. In the greater part of the Presidency they certainly cannot; throughout the greater part of India they certainly cannot; and I believe they cannot in any other part of India. In truth, in the districts governed by the Regulation of 1827, the extent of jurisdiction given to the Civil Courts for a long time escaped observation; but we are told that there has of late years been an increasing tendency to dispute the decisions of Collectors in Courts of law. Recent discussions have now made people aware that they may litigate any

question they please, and it is certain that unless we alter the law both we and the Civil Courts have serious trouble before us"

The above objections carry their own refutation. If the Civil Courts will imperil the revenue by interfering with the proceedings of the revenue officers, how is it that they have hitherto exercised this jurisdiction in the old provinces of Bombay without producing the disaster? It may be said that their interference was hitherto very limited, and that their tendency is now more aggressive; but if the general principles be fixed by law the Civil Court cannot override them. The tendency of progressive society is the crystallization of the views and policies of Government into fixed rules, and liberty to the constituted tribunals to interpret them. The old patriarchal rule is not compatible with the increasing intelligence of the people, and the more the Government will seek to impose upon them the fetters of its own will, the more it will place itself in antagonism with them. The greatest complaint of the day is that the representatives of the law are subordinated to the whims and caprices of the executive authority, and we are sorry that the action of Lord Northbrook's Government in respect of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill gives shape and body to that complaint.

THE BANK OF BENGAL.

IN OUR last we endeavoured to shew the mischief which the separation of Government connection with the Presidency Banks would cause to the public. But we fear it is a forgone conclusion. For more than ten years the subject has been under discussion, and nothing we fear will now avail. The plan of Government is cut and dry, and if as we see it stated the Government has served a notice of withdrawal upon the Directors of the Banks, it behoves the public to consider what would be the best terms on which the withdrawal should be effected. It is said that the Government will not at once throw its shares upon the market, for such a course would be disastrous to private shareholders. The Government will therefore gradually bring the shares into the market, but will that course be less disastrous? The very announcement of the intended withdrawal of Government has brought down the shares of the Bank of Bengal by nearly a hundred rupees per share, and the effect may be well imagined when the shares will be actually in the market, though they may be placed in small instalments. The operation of the Government must then go on for some years, and for that period we fear the value of the shares will go lower and lower. Private shareholders will of course suffer the most. There are now perhaps only a few original shareholders left—most of the foundation shareholders having sold out. The bulk of the present shareholders have bought their shares at high premia; some of them we have heard have paid as high premia as Rs. 1,700 per one thousand rupee shares. They did not buy for speculation—they have invested their capital in them, and to-day they are losers by four hundred rupees per each share. When they had bought the shares, they had not the remotest suspicion that the Government would sever its connection with the Bank. Many of these purchasers have departed their life, leaving their families in affluence, but their descendants find themselves to-day poorer by so many thousands of rupees not from any fault of theirs, not from any speculation or extravagance of their own, but solely from an unexpected change in the policy of Government, which is interpreted by them not without good reason into a breach of faith. Of course the private shareholders will suffer the most if the Government flood the market with its shares. It matters little whether the shares will be brought into market by driblets or wholesale. But the Government will also suffer. If the value of each share be Rs. 1300 to-day, when not a single share of Government has been placed in the market, who can say what will be the rate when the Government shares will be actually before it, particularly when the sale will be spread over a series of years? It is not therefore unlikely that the premium of to-day may dwindle into par a year hence and into discount five years thereafter. Thus what the Government consider a profit to-day may be followed by a serious loss hereafter, and such being the prospects of the transaction would the Government be justified in pursuing the course proposed? We say this in the interest of the tax-payers. We have heard it said that the Government would not be acting fairly towards the tax-payer, if it exchanged its shares with the Bank at par. In the first place we submit the Government is not a speculator, and when it entered into partnership with the Bank of Bengal, it had no idea of making profit. In the second place, supposing that the Government may without compromising its position as the sovereign power in the land look to profit in the sale of its shares, what probabilities are there that in the end it will profit and not lose? After balancing all probabilities we do not hesitate to say that ten to one it will be loss, not to mention the great wrong which would be done to private shareholders. Besides, if the Government should gradually sell its shares, its connection with the Bank could not be terminated until its hands would be entirely washed off. Under the circumstances there is but one course open to Government, *viz.*, to place its shares at the disposal of the Bank at par. Such a course would be fair and honest, and advantageous to the public. Neither the general tax-payers nor the private shareholders would then suffer. It might be said that in that case the Government would be entitled to its share in the reserve fund of the Bank, which is represented by about 18 lakhs. But we cannot admit the validity of this reasoning. The reserve fund is intended to cover accidents or contingencies—and the shareholders have a right to claim any part of it except, should such a misfortune occur, when the affairs of the Bank might be wound up. Each shareholder passes his interest in the reserve fund to his successor or representative the moment he passes his share. It is a derivative interest, and the Government has no more right to claim a part of the reserve fund as belonging to its share than the private shareholder in alienating his share. If another private person purchases the share of a private proprietor, he purchases therewith his interest in the reserve fund of the Bank, and in the same way if the Bank takes over the shares of Government, it will also acquire the interest of Government in the reserve fund. In justice to the private shareholders and to its own interests the Government ought to make over unreservedly its shares to the Bank at par. The Government ought to remember that though it may sever its connection with the Presidency Banks, still in times of need they will be its best help. If its credit now stands so high, that fact is greatly due to the influence and operations of the Banks. If the Bank of Bengal, we can speak more positively of this Bank than of any other Presidency Bank, had not sustained the credit of Government with its own weight, now purchasing Government securities, now loosening and now tightening the screw, and always acting as the hand-maid of Government, we doubt whether the latter would have been able to command such high credit as it now enjoys.

If the Government concurs in the above arrangement, the course for the proprietors of the Bank of Bengal is clear. They can at once reduce the capital to the extent of Government shares in the Bank. It needs be borne in mind that the capital of the Bank was raised chiefly with a view to assist the Government. The Government wanted to make the Bank its sole treasurer, not only in town but also in the Mofussil; it asked the Directors to open branches in the Mofussil, and this the latter could not do without larger capital. Hence the move for the increase of capital. Now what has been the consequence since the addition to its capital? There has been considerable addition to its risks and liabilities. In fact the Branches have caused more loss than gain. The authorities at the head-quarters, however quick-witted, active, and energetic, cannot look after business at the Branches with the same efficiency as they do at the head-quarters, and the result has been heavy defalcations in some of the Branches. On the other hand the opportunities for the employment of capital at the Branches are not numerous, and we believe if the Government had not made them the depositories of its cash, some of them could hardly pay their way. Even with Government business this result could not be always attained and some of the Branches were consequently shut up. The withdrawal of Government connection with the Bank would be a good pretext for the abolition of most of the Branches. A few only, which are sufficiently remunerative, may be maintained, but the rest may be abolished with advantage. With the capital of the Bank reduced and most of the Branches abolished, the institution we may say will start in life afresh. The experience of the Bank since the increase of the capital has shewn that there is not such demand for accommodation in Calcutta as to eagage the whole of its capital, not to mention the floating deposits in the Bank. One week is as good as another except when there is particular tightness in the market, and we therefore take the last statement of the affairs of the Bank of Bengal for the week ending the 19th ultimo:

LIABILITIES.		Rs.	A.	P.
Proprietors' Capital, paid up		2,20,00,000	0	0
Reserve Fund		18,04,240	13	1
General Treasury Balance at Head Office	Rs. 1,17,00,118 2 2	3,15,80,336	10	3
General Treasury Balance at Branches	„ 1,98,80,468 8 1			
Other Deposists at Head Office and Branches		2,71,81,453	12	3
Bank Post Bills, &c.		10,81,795	2	4
Sundries		8,80,747	2	8
Total		8,43,28,822	15	7

ASSETS.		Rs.	A.	P.
Government Securities		1,66,59,582	8	4
Loans on Government Securities, &c., at Head Office and Branches		64,63,699	15	7
Accounts of Credit on Government Securities, &c., at Head Office and Branches		19,40,088	9	3
Mercantile Bills discounted at Head Office and Branches		1,18,68,540	7	3
Dead Stock		10,62,782	12	5
Stamps		11,515	5	0
Balances with other Banks		5,21,035	7	8
Sundries		1,42,386	10	9
Bullion		1,00,456	9	9
		4,17,70,086	5	6
Cash and Currency Notes at Head Office	Rs. 1,73,60,485 13 4	4,25,58,736	10	1
Cash and Currency Notes at Branches	„ 2,51,98,250 12 9			
Total		8,43,28,822	15	7

It will be seen from the above that not quite 2½ crores are employed in private accommodation, that is for the benefit of commerce, while the deposits alone represent a larger sum. As they cannot find legitimate employment the Directors have engaged nearly half the capital in Government securities. The reduction of the capital of the Bank by payment of Government shares would be an advantage to it.

THE TRADE AND COMMERCE OF BRITISH INDIA.

IF THE wealth and prosperity of a country be measured by the value of its productive resources and the value of its exports to foreign countries we cannot say that British India is not in a flourishing condition. It imports considerably less than it exports—that is it consumes less than it produces. In one month (May last, the returns of which are before us,) the value of the imports amounted to little above two crores and six and seventy lakhs, while the exports amounted to nearly six and half crores or Rs. 6,39,77,335. The imports consist of both manufactured goods and raw produce—the bulk of the former come from Europe and America and the latter are wholly of Asiatic and African growth. Tea, tobacco, raw-silk, spices, sugar and sugar-candy, wood, shells and cowries and coir and coir rope are wholly of Asiatic origin, while Africa which is poor in its exports sends us only pepper and a few spices. The returns which furnish us with the statistics are very complete as far as they go, but they are in one respect, defective. We have no means of forming a very accurate idea of the state of commerce between the United Kingdom and British India, because the returns do not shew separately what portion of the articles which we import both from the United Kingdom and foreign countries belong to the former. For example horses, firearms, works of art, books, stationary, candles

and watches and clocks we import from Australia Arabia, Switzerland France, Germany as well as from Great Britain, and we have no means of ascertaining how much of them are of British parentage, simply because they are all grouped together in lumps. At all events there is no manner of doubt that the balance of trade is in our favor, but whether it is so where Great Britain and India are concerned is not quite clear. From the calculations made we may perhaps hazard an opinion that we export more to the United Kingdom than we import, and the high rate of exchange is to be accounted for by the heavy remittances of the Government of India on account of home-expenditure as well as private remittances of European employes and independent Europeans.

There are some facts in connection with our import trade which may be presented with advantage. Bengal, by which we mean the whole of continental India, Sind and the Southern and Western Presidencies excepted, in one month only imported goods worth a million and a quarter. Next to Bengal comes Bombay, whose imports during the same period aggregated close upon a million, and considering the area of its consumption that Presidency may be considered rich, but it must be remembered that the greater portion of re-exports of Europe merchandize to most of the Asiatic countries and Africa are made from Bombay. It does not appear, however, that the explanation guessed at on the stagnation of the Calcutta trade for the last two years and upwards that all the trade in Europe goods of the North Western Provinces, Punjab and Oude, pass by rail from Bombay to Allahabad is quite correct. The trade in sugar, many may have a notion, consists of the produce of India. The figures in the returns before us shew that we import more sugar than we supply to others. In May of the years from 1873-74 to 1875-76 we imported cwts. 8,648, 11,067and 16,447, while our exports during the same period were cwts. 5,360, 3,308, 3,008 respectively. The whole of British India Burma inclusive imported 182,350 gallons of spirits, wines and liquors, out of which the Bengal Presidency absorbed nearly eighty thousand and half gallons in one month; it is, however, an agreeable fact that the imports of these liquors shew a yearly decline. But that which most interests us is the condition of our export trade. We have shewn that our exports are considerably in excess of our imports, but a detailed examination of the items comprising the former do not make us very hopeful. The demand for many articles of Indian produce has decreased and is on the decline. What is most to be deplored is that the trade in some of these staples is likely to become extinct. By a mistaken policy which led to the imposition of a prohibitory duty the demand for Indian saltpetre is yearly diminishing, our customers prefer to receive it from Russia or provide for its supply from their own country. France and some other continental European nations have made saltpetre-beds in their own country from the refuse saltpetre which they at one time largely purchased from India, and also by some chemical preparations. In May of 1873-74 the export of this staple aggregated sixty-two thousand cwts., in May of 1874-75 the amount was 40 thousand, and in May of 1875-76 it was 38 thousand. Great expectations were formed at one time of raw jute being at one time a permanent source of Bengal's wealth. We have now reasons considerably to moderate our hopes. The trade has received a serious check and we do not know where it will stop. We refer to the following figures for illustration of our meaning:

Export of raw jute in May.

1873-74	1874-75	1875-76
Cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
267,382	209,352	131,443

Many of our readers remember that not long ago the manufacture of gunny cloth created considerable excitement in our suburban towns and converted the towns on both banks of the Hooghly to a distance about 20 miles northward into busy bee-hives. Multitudes of people of humble circumstances made enviable competence by the trade. There is now no demand for this manufacture. Our sole consumers the American States do not now take a single piece. In May this year there was an export of only 323 pieces to some inconsiderable consumer from whom the demand was purely accidental. The discoveries and contrivances of practical chemistry have nearly extinguished our traffic in dye-stuffs. They have found good substitutes for them. Indigo which forms the basis of all colours barely maintains its place, and though its consumption in May is not a sufficient criterion of the demand for it, it is a sufficient indication of the direction of the commercial wind. The greatest consumer of this article is the United Kingdom. A few years hence people will forget that safflower and lac were articles of commerce in India. All the articles which we have enumerated and the trade in which has declined were chiefly the growth of Bengal Proper and Bengal therefore is the greatest sufferer. Our productive resources are not, however, so great, neither are the people so fruitful of invention as to find easy substitutes for what they have lost. What is there now to counterbalance the loss? The expansion of the cotton trade, the increased demand for rice, gunny bags and shells. The opium produce forms a considerable item in the make-weight figures.

THE INDIAN TARIFF ACT.

OF ALL the memorials lately submitted to Government on the subject of the Indian Tariff Act that of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce is decidedly the best. It condemns in just and severe terms the imposition of a duty of 5 per cent on raw cotton not the produce of continental Asia or Ceylon imported into British India. Such a duty, the memorialists justly remark, "is contrary to sound principle and good policy, being imposed in restraint of the manufactures of India, and injurious to the general interests of the country." They continue that "such a measure is wholly without precedent in the commercial history of any enlightened country, and has avowedly been adopted "in order to place the Indian manufacturer upon the same footing as the importer of piece-goods and yarns." If manufactures, in which the process of mixing American cotton with Indian, had acquired a degree of development in India equal to those of England, such a measure would nevertheless have been opposed to good commercial policy. But the manufactures of India have not yet reached so advanced a state, nor is there a prospect of an early approach even to such perfection. A duty imposed, in the interests of the English manufactures, for the purpose only of prohibiting the people of India from extending and improving their own manufactures, is a measure which, in the existing state of the native industry, is, your Memorialists respectfully submit, unjust and oppressive, and can only result in permanent injury to the country." The memorialists meet the Government of India on its own ground. They observe:

"That the Government of India has again and again promulgated that the duties on imported piece goods and yarns are levied for revenue purposes only, and not for the protection of any industry. The policy which the English Government, under similar circumstances, adopted was to replace the sacrifice of the revenue, when Customs duties were abolished in the interest of the consumer, by the imposition of direct taxes, but this seems to your Excellency to be "a policy which would be contrary to the interests of the people of India, and which no statesman with a knowledge of India and a sense of responsibility could be found to propose." Except, however, where the differences between India and England render it impossible to carry out the general principles of recent English financial legislation, your Excellency has been pleased to proclaim that those are the principles by which the Government of India is guided.

Now there is nothing in the recent commercial system of England which, either by precedent or analogy, can be held to warrant the imposition of such a duty. Excise Duties on manufactures are an exploded doctrine equally with protection. While the free-trade policy of England, on the other hand, by removing all restrictions, gave every encouragement to manufactures, it conferred also great benefits on the country, by giving the people cheaper clothing. But the effect of this duty is to restrain the manufactures, and, at the same time, to injure the general interests of the people of India. For, assuming that India could compete successfully with Lancashire in the making of the finer qualities of cloth and yarn, the duty will, by restricting the enterprise and energies of its manufacturers, deprive the Indian consumer of the benefit of such competition. Now the object of all free-trade legislation is the interest of the consumer, and for this object the English Legislature has sanctioned the repeal of protective duties. The repeal of import duties, more especially on articles of such universal use as clothing, confers also like benefits on the consumer; but this requires a healthy composition which, except among the English manufacturers themselves, does not exist in India in the case of the cotton manufactures now imported, for in these neither India nor any other country has yet been able to compete. But such a measure as a duty levied on the raw material entering into a manufacture, not with the object of raising revenue, but avowedly to favour a foreign industry, already in the enjoyment of a monopoly, is an anomaly which in England no statesman has ever ventured to bring forward, and which may be productive in this country of the most mischievous consequences. It has not even the excuse of attracting revenue, if additional revenue were needed, while its tendency is to injure the general interests of the country, and to restrict its manufactures, which in all countries, but more especially in an agricultural country such as India, it is the duty of the State to encourage.

The cotton manufactures imported into India consist principally of the finer qualities, which are consumed by the wealthier classes, and of which the English manufacturers have practically a monopoly of the supply. The finer cloth made by hand-loom weavers out of imported yarn need not be considered, and little of such cloths have yet been made by Indian mills. The importation of manufactures, which last year amounted to nineteen millions sterling, is annually increasing, and will, your Memorialists believe, with improved and extended communications, continue to increase. But the progress of an industry, particularly in a country such as India, is necessarily slow. While several of the mills formed in Bombay a year or two ago have been placed under liquidation, not one additional spindle has been added to the local industry in the last twelve months, and there is no likelihood of any new mills being established, save under circumstances much more encouraging than at present.

Your Memorialists believe that the duties on imported piece-goods and yarns cannot act as a protection to native manufactures, and to this opinion the Government of India also adheres. But in order to compensate the English manufacturers for these duties, from the repeal of which it is doubtful if the consumer would, in the absence of any competition besides that of the English manufacturers among themselves, drive much if any benefit, a permanent injury is inflicted on India by the restraint of its manufactures, and by imposing a duty which is calculated to have all the evil effects on the consumer of a protective duty, without any of the advantages which a country, and its manufacturing interests, derive from such a duty. If considerations of public policy prevent the Government of India from abolishing the import duties on piece-goods and yarns, which are admittedly light in their incidence and are attended with no perceptible injury to any interest, while the commodities themselves are subject to no other competition, these considerations do not involve the necessity of a measure restricting native manufactures, which, on the contrary, ought to receive every encouragement from the State.

Now, in comparing the relative positions of the Lancashire and Indian manufacturers we find that the latter labour under many disadvantages. With the aid of cheap money and an unlimited supply of skilled labour, the Lancashire manufacturer can erect a mill at a much less cost than his Indian rival. The Indian manufacturer, from the difference in climate, the high temperature, and dry atmosphere, which, it is well known, are unfavourable to both spinning and weaving, is obliged to build more commodious and better ventilated mills, than is necessary in England, and he has, moreover, to pay a much higher price for his machinery. Freight, agents' commissions, landing and forwarding charges, and breakages, more especially in the engines, boilers, shafting, and other heavy portions, greatly increase the cost of the machinery of a mill, while skilled labour for its erection has to be provided at enhanced cost from England. All these tend to make the cost of a mill in India very much greater than the cost of a similar establishment at home. Then, in working the mill, the additional cost of fuel, European superintendence, and exclusive of fuel the extra cost of steam power in India, place the Indian manufacturers at a great disadvantage compared with those of Lancashire, although the latter are loud in their complaints to the contrary.

That a duty on raw material imported for the purposes of manufacture is opposed to that sound principle of the commercial policy of England and other enlightened nations which requires the State to give every encouragement to the development and extension of native manufactures. Thirty years ago, the duty on raw cotton imported into England was abolished out of consideration for the permanent prosperity of its manufactures. The great accumulation of the national wealth, which followed that wise and liberal policy, has induced other enlightened nations also to adopt it. The effect of the liberal policy of the English Government has been that the export of cotton manufactures from Great Britain to all other countries has more than trebled since 1845. The fluctuations, again, in the exports of wool, which is largely produced in England itself, show at once the ruinous effect on a manufacture, of duties imposed on the raw material constituting the fabric of it, and the elasticity and vigour of the same manufacture when relieved of the depressing influence of such duties. A duty was imposed on wool, in 1802, and raised to its highest point in 1819. The consequence was that it occasioned, during its continuance, a considerable decline of the export of the woollen and worsted manufactures, which continued for some time, even after the duty was repealed. In 1800, a year or two before the duty was first imposed, the value of the exports of woollen and worsted goods was £6,917,000: in 1830, notwithstanding that, since 1825, the duty on Colonial wool had been abolished, it fell to £4,351,000. In 1844 the duty was abolished and a great revival took place, the exports rising, in 1850, to ten millions; in 1860, to sixteen millions; and, in 1870, to twenty-six millions sterling.

That great as are the social and economic benefits which have resulted from the liberal policy of the more enlightened nations of the West, the advantage which India would reap from an extension of its manufactures can hardly be over-estimated. Its entire population is, it is needless to remind your Excellency, dependent on agriculture for its subsistence, and the Government of Bombay has expressed its opinion that no cause has retarded the material progress of most districts of this Presidency so much as the want of a demand for agricultural produce, and of an outlet for labour, which the establishment of manufactures is calculated to supply.

That the progress of manufactures in a country such as India is, as has already been observed necessarily slow; but, if, happily, a great extension of them should take place the loss of revenue in the duties on imported goods and yarns would be counterbalanced by the saving in exchange which would result from the dispalcement of imported manufactures by those made in the country.

That England has risen to wealth, prosperity, and greatness, not only by its mechanical inventions and manufacturing industry, but its wise and beneficent fiscal measures, all tending directly to the encouragement of its manufacture; and advises the Government of India to give every encouragement to the extension and development of the manufactures of India.

Your Memorialists, therefore, do hereby respectfully protest against the duty of 5 per cent *ad valorem*, levied under the Indian Tariff Act 1875, on raw cotton, not the produce of Continental Asia or Ceylon, imported into British India, as an unjust and impolitic restriction on the manufactures of India, and contrary to that sound principle of the commercial policy of England and of other enlightened nations, which requires State to give every encouragement to the free importation of the raw materials necessary for the development and extension of native manufactures; and they respectfully pray that your Excellency in Council will take immediate measures to expunge from Schedule A, No. 16, of the Indian Tariff Act 1875, the words "Cotton, Raw not the produce of Continental Asia or Ceylon."

The extract is long but will amply repay perusal. The case has been put tersely and strongly. This is the first time we are told that it is the duty of Government to adjust the Customs duty to the profits of speculation, for if the 5 per cent duty were rightly interpreted it could have but one meaning, which is that inasmuch as Manchester goods are weighted with 5 per cent. duty, and as these goods are chiefly limited to finer texture, it is therefore necessary to impose a 5 per cent duty on the importation of fine raw cotton into British India as a counterpoise. If this is sound commercial policy, then the same course ought to be pursued for consistency's sake in respect of other articles. England has a large iron trade with India, and why should not on the same principle an excise duty be imposed on indegenous iron for the sake of equalising the profits of English iron-mongers: similarly why not on coal, cotton, and other articles? The position which the Government of India has taken on this subject is most unfortunate; it at once shows the hollowness of its policy.

AJMERE.

WE HAVE before us a very interesting report on the Ajmere and Mhairwarra districts by Mr. J. D. La Touche, Settlement Officer. Ajmere as the reader is aware is an ancient State of the Rajputana confederacy. According to tradition the fort and city of Ajmere were founded by Raja Aja, a descendant of Auhal, the first Chohan, in the year 145 A. D. Aja at first attempted to build a fort on the Nagpahar or Serpent Hill, and the site chosen by him is still pointed out. His evil genius, however, destroyed in the night the walls erected in the day, and Aja determined to build on the hill now known as Taraghur. Here he constructed a fort which he called Garh Bitli, and in the valley known as Indurkot he built a town, which he called after his own name, and which has become famous as Ajmere. This Prince is generally known by the name of Ajapal, which, Colonel Tod explains, was derived from the fact that he was a goat-herd, "whose piety in supplying one of the saints of Pooshkur with goat's milk procured him a territory." The dynasties which have ruled Ajmere may thus be succinctly shown:—

	A.D.		A.D.	No. of years.	
From	145	to	1193	1,048	Chohan.
,,	1191	,,	1469	275	Kings of Delhi.
,,	1470	,,	1531	61	Kings of Malwa.
,,	1532	,,	1556	24	Maldeo Rahtore.
,,	1556	,,	1730	194	Mogul Emperors.
,,	1731	,,	1755	24	Rahtores.
,,	1756	,,	1787	31	Mahrattas.
,,	1788	,,	1791	3	Rahtores.
,,	1792	,,	1817	25	Mahrattas.
,,	1818 British Government.				

The united districts of Ajmere and Mhairwarra under British rule contain an area of 2,660·61 square miles, with a population of 316,032 or 119 to the square mile. The two districts were originally distinct and each possesses a history of its own. They were united under one officer in A. D. 1842, and now form the charge of the Deputy Commissioner of Ajmere-Mhairwarra. The immediate revenue, magisterial, and civil jurisdictions of Mhairwarra are vested in an Assistant Commissioner whose head-quarters are at Nyanuggur, the only town in Mhairwarra. The sudder station, however, takes its name from that of the pergunnah in which it is situated and is known as Beawur. The head-quarters of the Deputy Commissioner are at Ajmere, from which place Beawur is 33 miles distant. The united districts form also a Chief Commissionership under the Foreign Department of the Government of India, the Chief Commissioner being the Agent to the Governor-General for the States of Rajpootana whose head-quarters are at Mount Aboo. The controlling authority is vested in a Commissioner with the powers of a Sessions Judge, whose head-quarters are at Ajmere, and under whose direct management are placed the Police, Registration, Jails, and Education of the province departments which in larger administrations are kept distinct. From the hills which bound the Ajmere valley, the country slopes to all points of the compass, and the range of hills between Ajmere and Nusseerabad marks the watershed of the Continent of India. The rain which falls on the one side finds its way by the Chumbul into the Bay of Bengal, that which falls on the other side is discharged by the Looni into the Gulf of Cutch. Further south the watershed is still more clearly marked and is the high wall of rock which separates Marwar from Mhairwarra. As a necessity of its position on the watershed of the continent, the district is devoid of any stream which can be dignified with the name of a river. Ajmere has an artificial water-supply by wells and tanks, Besides the artificial reservoirs there are four natural reservoirs in the district which in less dry countries would hardly deserve mention. These are the sacred lakes of Pooshkur and the lake known as old Pooshkur near the former. Both are depressions among sand hills without any outlet, but exercise a considerable influence by percolation through the sand hills on the low sandy bottoms in their vicinity. In Mhairwarra there are two natural basins, that of Surgaon, and that of Karantia, both near Beawur. A passage for the escape of the water of the former has been cut through the encircling sand hills, and the bed is now regularly cultivated for the spring crop. That of Karantia lies amongst hills and is of no use for irrigation. The famine of 1869 gave a great stimulus to the construction of metalled roads. Before that year the only metalled roads in the districts were 14 miles between Ajmere and Nusseerabad, and seven miles between Ajmere and Gangwana on the Agra road. Now the Agra and Ahmedabad road is metalled throughout from the border of Kishenghur territory to the border of Marwar. The Railway between Agra and Ajmere is rapidly advancing towards completion, and the earthwork has been finished to Ajmere. The Western Rajpootana Railway Survey has completed the regular survey of the line from Ajmere to Ahmedabad, which will connect Agra with Bombay. A Railway from Ajmere to Nusseerabad has been sanctioned, and its extension through Neemuch to join the Holkar (State) Railway is only a matter of time. All these Railways have been or will be laid on the metre gauge. There are two Telegraph Stations in the district, one at Ajmere, and the other at Nusseerabad. There are five Imperial Post Offices in the district—Ajmere, Nusseerabad, Beawur, Deolee, and Kekree, but the latter was converted into a branch office in 1870-71. The districts abound in mineral wealth, though for many years this source of revenue has been extinct. The Taraghur Hill is rich in lead, and copper and iron mines have been worked, but did not pay their expenses. The lead mines of Taraghur were farmed by the Mahrattas for Rupees. 5,000 yearly, the custom being for the miners to receive three-fourths of the value of the metal as the wages of their labor and to convey their expenses in sinking shafts. Good building materials abound throughout the districts and stone is largely used for purposes for which wood is employed elsewhere in India. Door frames are often made of stone, and the best roofing is formed of slab-stones resting on arches or on stone beams, while thin slabs have lately been used as slates. Slab-stones are used for roofing, for flagstone, and for spanning culverts. The best quarries in the vicinity of Ajmere are at Sillora (in Kishenghur territory) and at Srinuggur, where slabs 12 or 14 feet long by 3 or 4 feet or even more in width can be obtained. At the former place beams 20 feet or upwards in length by 1½ foot in width are procurable. Ajmere is the residence of the heads of several important firms of Seths, who have establishments throughout Rajpootana and in other parts of India, where they carry on a trade in grain, cotton, and opium. In Ajmere their chief occupation, almost their sole occupation, is that of banking business proper, and is confined to the sale and purchase of hoondees, especially hoondees for the payment of tribute due by Native States. Their money-lending business has much diminished within the last few years, owing to the Istumrardars, who were their principal constituents, having been prevented from borrowing, and to the action of the Courts in giving decrees with protracted instalments. The Seths complain that this procedure of the Courts has rendered the village bunnias indifferent about paying their debts when they are due, and the Seths find the return of their money so slow as to render it no longer profitable to lend.

The chief objects of interest in Ajmere are the Durgah, the Jain Temple, and the fort of Taraghur. Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, the saint known as Khwaja Sahib, emigrated from Gor to Hindustan in the year 1143 A.D. From an antiquarian point of view the most interesting sight in Ajmere is the remains of a very ancient Jain Temple in the old town, which is known as the "Arhai-din-ka Jhompra," or the temple of two and a half days. Various accounts of the origin of this name have been given, the most probable perhaps, or at least the only one which does not rest on an absurd supernatural basis, is that Shahab-ud-din on visiting Ajmere passed the temple on his way to Taraghur and enjoined that by his return in two half days it should be fit for him to pay his devotions in. Accordingly, by the appointed time, it was transformed into a Mahomedan mosque. The building is constructed of a fine grained yellow sandstone, and consists of two distinct portions. The inside is a hall with a domed roof supported by lofty, graceful, and beautifully fluted pillars, after the fashion of the Jain Temple at Delhi. The outside portion is a screen of Saracenic architecture covered with Arabic inscriptions. General Cunningham, Director-General of the Archæological Survey, writes as follows about this temple: "There is no building in India which either for historical interest or archæological importance is more worthy of preservation. It is the second oldest musjid in India, being only a few years later in date than the great [illegible] Musjid at Delhi. In an archæological point of view, it is especially valuable as the great arch is surmounted by two small minarets, one of which is inscribed with the name and titles of Sultan Altamsh the [illegible] Mahomedan King of Delhi. These minarets are, as far as I know, the first specimens of small mazinahs attached to a musjid. The Kutb musjid at Delhi has one single lofty minar, and we know that the two Musjids at Ghaznee had only one minar each, the minar in all these instances being detached from the building. I am specially anxious therefore for the preservation of the great arch and the two small minarets which surmount it." The celebrated shrine of Pooshkur is situated in Ajmere. The great sanctity of its lake, equalled according to Colonel Tod, only by that of Mausarowar in Thibet, and its annual fair, entitle Pooshkur to special mention. The town is picturesquely situated on the lake with hills on three sides; on the fourth side the sands drifted from the plains of Marwar have formed a complete bar to the waters of the lake, which has no outlet, though the filtration through the sand-hills is considerable. The lake is fed from the Nagpahar, and is in the form of an ellipse. On three sides, bathing ghats have been constructed, and nearly all the princely and wealthy families of Rajpootana have houses round the margin. The principal ones are those built by Raja Man of Joypore, Ahelya Bai the Queen of Holkar, Jowahir Mull of Bhurtpoor, and Raja Bijay Sing of Marwar. The piety or shrewdness of the Brahmans has provided places of worship for pilgrims of every sect, and there are 42 temples in the town. Before creation commenced, Brahma is said to have collected all the celestials to this place and to have here performed the Yuga. Here Savitre, the wife of Brahma, disappeared on the hill to the south of the lake, where is her shrine. The most conspicuous and most famous temple in the town is that of Brahma, said to be the only one dedicated to him in India. It was built by Gokul Pak, a Minister of Sindia, and cost about a lakh and a half of rupees. Another temple, built by Ana

Deo, about 600 years ago, is that of Varahajee or the Boar, the second incarnation of Vishnu. The whole place teems with sanctity, and in accordance with ancient charters no living thing is allowed to be put to death within the limits of holy Pooshkur. The fair at Pooshkur takes place in October or November, and, like other religious fairs, is used as an opportunity for trade. It is attended by about 100,000 pilgrims, who bathe in the sacred lake.

The land assessment of Ajmere seems to be very oppressive. The out-goings of the cultivators have been calculated at Rupees 3,04,593 for revenue, Rupees 2,77,328 for interest on debt, Rupees 6,96,148 for cost of production. The total is thus Rupees 12,78,069, leaving but half a lakh of rupees for the profits of the agricultural classes in the whole of Ajmere-Mhairwarra, if the whole produce is worth only Rupees 13¼ lakhs. In favorable years no doubt they would make a profit, but in ordinary years it would appear they have just enough to live on and no more. And this has been the condition of a district, which has been under British rule since 1818. And yet the Deputy Commissioner says: "Though the assessment is certainly not light, yet it would have served no good end to have reduced it further. The people are accustomed to pay a heavy assessment, and if suddenly relieved by too much would be demoralized, while the grain-dealers and mortgagees would have reaped the profit." This is a novel way of defending exorbitant assessment and oppression.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE received the names of under-mentioned subscribers in aid of the Prince of Wales' Entertainment Fund:

		Rs.
Amount already acknowledged	... Rs.	32,260
Syud Looft Ali Khan, Patna	...	500
Rai Shamasunkor Roy Chowdry, Teota	...	250
Prince Nusseeroodeen Hyder, Mysore Family	...	225
Babu Hurropersad Roy Chowdry,	...	200
„ Dwarkanath Biswas,	...	200
„ Buddreedas Mookeen	...	100
	...	100 paid
	...	100
	...	100
	...	100
	y...	100
	...	100
	...	100
	...	100
	...	50
Manickjee Rustomjee Esq.	...	50
Heerjubhoy Manickjee Rustomjee Esq.	..	50
Cowajee Manickjee Rustomjee Esq.	...	50
Roy Rampersad Mittra,	...	50
Babu Debendrochunder Dutt,	...	50
„ Sreenath Chunder,	...	50
„ Norendranath Sen,	...	50
„ Aushtosh Dhur,	...	50
„ Madhubchunder Sen,	...	50
„ Govindchunder Dutt,	...	50
„ Bhoojendrobhoosun Chatterjee,	...	50
Total	.....	35,135

BOMBAY is full of life and bustle in consequence of the approaching visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Most of the Chiefs and the Princes of the Presidency have arrived, and they have been received with befitting honors. The Reception Committee are busy with their preparations. We have not heard whether an entertainment will be given to His Royal Highness besides the one proposed for his suite and the offices of the Serapis. There will be, however, held grand festivities during the Prince's stay at Bombay in the shape of a general illumination, fetes to sailors and European children, &c. Sir Phillip Woodhouse, the Governor, is active in making State arrangements for giving a right royal reception to His Royal Highness. His Excellency the Viceroy will arrive to-morrow. A procession will be formed for conducting His Excellency to Government House. His Excellency will occupy a separate mansion, as he does not like to encumber the Governor, who will be necessarily busy with his principal guest, the Prince.

WE TAKE the following from the *Times of India*:

"We regret to have to announce that the Nizam will not after all visit Bombay to take part in the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The state of His Highness's health is such that we are informed the Viceroy, acting upon the suggestion of the Resident at Hyderabad, has assented to the Nizam's absence. He will, however, be represented by a deputation composed probably of some of the leading nobles of the State, including the Prime Minister, Sir Salar Jung. The Residency Surgeon, Dr. Wyndowe, who has been attending the young Prince, seems to be of opinion that the journey and the excitement of the festivities in Bombay would have a prejudicial effect on his patient's health. It is hoped, however, that the indisposition the Nizam is at present suffering from will not prevent him from visiting Poona while the Prince is there."

We are glad that His Excellency the Viceroy has excused the attendance of the Nizam. Any one, who would read the correspondence connected with the invitation of the Government of India to His Highness to be present at the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales either at Bombay or Calcutta, would we make no doubt feel shocked that the Government should have insisted upon the Nizam's presence notwithstanding the very reasonable and respectful remonstrances of Sir Salar Jung on the score of his very delicate health. His Highness is a young boy of about nine years of age, and very sickly. Sir Salar Jung as the head of the Nizam's Government felt it his duty to crave the indulgence of the Government of India in the matter, and supported his supplication by the certificates of the State physicians, but the Resident was inexorable. If the Government of India had persisted in its demand, and if any disaster had occurred, a serious responsibility would have devolved upon it. We are therefore exceedingly glad to learn that on re-consideration His Excellency has permitted the Nizam to pay homage to the British Crown in the person of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales by a deputation of his first ministers and nobles.

THE LATE rains led us to hope that the gloomy prospects of the crops had passed away. We were however mistaken as to the area of the rains. They have done good where they fell, but the early cessation of rain was general throughout Bengal and the late falls affected a few districts. In the districts of Beerbhoom, Midnapore, Howrah, 24-Pergunnahs, Jessore, Pubna, Furreedpore, Pooree, Singbhoom and Maunbhoom the prospects of the crops are excellent. In Burdwan, Bankura, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Rajshye, Bogra, Dacca, Backergunge, Mymensing, Tipperah, Chittagong, Nowkhally, Hill-Tipperah, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cuttack and Balasore the prospects are good, and in Hooghly, Patna, Rungpore, Darjeeling, Gya, Shahabad and Lahardugga they are fair, the outturn calculated from the existing order of things will be less than half the average. But deep gloom still hangs over Dinagepore, Malda, Cooch-Behar, Durbangah, Muzufferpore, Sarun, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah and Bagambagh. Cholera it appears has set in a little too early this year. It is reported from Malda that fifteen out of twenty cases ended fatally in one week, and from the Sub-division of Diamond Harbour that 17 deaths from cholera occurred within the same space of time. In the districts of Dinagepore, Rajshye, Backergunge, and Patna the disease prevails in a more or less virulent form.

THE PIONEER seems to be making much o the fact that the new Tariff was first revised by the Committee consisting of certain officials and merchants. The writer accordingly argues that it is not true to say that mercantile opinion had not been consulted on the subject. Of course no one disputes that fact, but will our contemporary say whether the Committee had recommended the imposition of the import duty on long-stapled cotton? The report of the Committee does not contain one word about it. It was Mr. Hope, who in a separate minute, recommended the measure to Government, and the Government consistently enough invited him to defend it in Council. Mercantile opinion was thus not at all sought upon this most important question, and yet the *Pioneer* tries to throw dust into the eyes of the English public by saying that the Tariff had been first revised by a mixed Committee. As for Mr. Bullen Smith's opinion, who it is stated was consulted before the Bill was passed, we know nothing about it, but supposing that he has given adhesion to the obnoxious duty we have on the other side the united opinion of the Bombay and Madras Chambers of Commerce against it. Our contemporary has not answered the question we have raised that native opinion had been altogether ignored on the subject.

OUR ATTENTION has been drawn to the perfunctory manner in which the duties of Director of Public Instruction in Assam under the *new regime* are performed. Dr. Martin is the Director or Inspector of Education, and that officer has been also appointed Inspector General of Assurances. We are told that the last mentioned office nearly engrosses the attention of Dr. Martin, and that he has consequently scant time to attend to the Education Department. He visits schools in the interior whenever he is on tour for registration work, and it may therefore be well imagined how efficiently the duties of the two offices can be performed. The economy aimed at by this combination of offices we do not hesitate to say is wholly misplaced. The two offices in question are such that each of them requires the undivided attention of the officer concerned. Smaller provinces than Assam have distinct officers as Inspectors of Education and Registration. Berar for instance is a much smaller province, and last Saturday's *Gazette of India* has notified the appointment of a separate officer as Director of Public Instruction to that province. Mysore is another instance. We hope that in the interests of the province the two offices will be separated. While on this subject may we suggest that a good and experienced native officer from Bengal may be appointed Inspector General of Assurances in Assam. This is one of those appointments which, the civilians' organ the *Pioneer* says, may be advantageously conferred upon a native. Why should not the experiment be made in Assam? If it should prove successful there it may hereafter be extended to the larger provinces.

A CORRESPONDENT draws our attention to the intelligence that the Presidency Commissioner is about to visit Krishnaghur in course of his usual cold weather tour and wishes that he will have the goodness to call for the papers in that case of gross municipal oppression, which we noticed in these columns a few issues back. We support our correspondent, but we would advise him and his fellow-residents of Krishnaghur to submit a memorial to Lord Ulick Browne on the subject. Although particular individuals suffered in that case, still the outrage was so gross and violent as to justify a general memorial regarding it.

ALTHOUGH we have no Plimsoll here, the Government of India we observe has of its own accord undertaken the amendment of the law relating to Native Passengers' Bill. There are three Acts of the Legislature on the subject, viz. Act XXV of 1859, Act XII of 1870, and Act XII of 1872. Act XXV of 1859 applies solely to the Bay of Bengal and only to certain specified voyages within that Bay. Act XII of 1870, applies to voyages to or from the westward, namely, those which take place from any part in India to either the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf, or the reverse way. The scope of the Act was affected by a definition of the term "Native passenger ship." That term was said only to mean a ship which carried more than thirty passengers and which was plying from any port in India to any port in the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf, and *vice versa*. Act XII of 1872 effected an alteration of that law by striking out the definition of "Native passenger ship" that was contained in the Act of 1870, and it substituted a very much more sweeping definition, defining the expression to mean a vessel, whether sailing or steam, which carried more than thirty Native passengers. So that by the new definition of the Act of 1872, vessels of every class, sailers and steamers, whether they carried one passenger or a thousand, were swept into the rules which were framed for voyages from India to the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. In the present Bill it is provided that a ship, in order to come within the provision of the Act at all, should carry more than thirty passengers. It was not considered worth while to carry supervision lower than that. That would alter the law as regarded the Bay of Bengal, where at present the provisions of the Act of 1859 applied to all vessels. Then, instead of making a distinction between coasting voyages as performed by steamers, and other voyages, it is proposed to divide all voyages into long and short voyages. If a ship, under ordinary circumstances, was likely to be more than five days out

of port, that should be considered a long voyage, and all other voyages short ones. Then the Bill gives to the Executive Government power to declare with respect either to a steamer or a sailing vessel, whether a voyage should be a short or a long voyage. We only hope that the interference of Government will not be too minute.

AS THE Duke of Argyll's name is well known in India, we reproduce the following "portrait in oil" of His Grace from the columns of the *World* in the belief that it may interest our readers:

"Sprung of an ancient and illustrious line, Royalty's father-in-law, who now happens to be Royalty's host, furnishes in his person, his character, and his career a noteworthy instance of that irony in which nature occasionally delights. The descendant of a race of warrior chiefs whose remote traditions are lost in the dim mists that enveloped the frays in which they spent their blood like water, the possessor of a name that summons up to the imagination a trooping host of memories of courage, of chivalry, and of pride, and that seems to bridge over the interval of years separating the modern from the mediæval epoch, the eighth Duke of Argyll unites with the manner of the Scotch dominie the learning, the sophistry, and the disputatiousness of the model member of the English mechanics' institute. He has succeeded—indeed, it would be strange if so clever and so patrician a duke had failed—in investing himself with a faint halo of statesmanship. He has not merely been Privy Seal, he has been Postmaster-General, and he has been the English President of the destinies of our Indian Empire. These are offices in which he has displayed ability and courted unpopularity. It is not that the Duke of Argyll has been supercilious and self-complacent merely. Self-complacence and superciliousness are not uncommon with great nobles who condescend to serve their country, and are acquiesced in by their subordinates as part of the necessary despotism of official routine. The irritating peculiarity about the Duke of Argyll is that he has invariably contrived to do the wrong thing at the wrong time and in the wrong manner. He is, no doubt, a very clever man, but he has committed as many blunders as the most stupid man who ever held the seals of office. It may be safely said that the Duke of Argyll, during the twenty-eight years that he has been in the House of Lords, never disarmed an opponent by his courtesy, and never won supporter by his arguments. If he were not the great noble which he is, he would have been universally pronounced to have possessed all the sinister attributes of the *parvenu* personified. As it is, he may be pointed to as a singular instance of the manner in which the least lovely features of the character of the Scotch plebeian are sometimes to be found under the cover of the culture and the capacities of the Scotch noble."

The above though outspoken is true.

IN MARCH last a Commission was appointed by the Government of Bombay to enquire into the condition of the operatives in the Bombay factories, and the necessity or otherwise for the passing of a Factory Act. The Commission was composed of—F. F. Arbuthnot, Esq., *President*; Hon'ble J. K. Bythell; Sir Munguldas Nuthoobhoy. KT., C.S.I.; Dr. T. Blaney; Hon'ble Rao Sahib Vishwanath Narayen Mundlik; H. Maxwell, Esq.; G.A. Kittredge, Esq; Morarjee Goculdas, Esq.; and Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Esq. It is stated that the Commissioners have submitted their report. Mr. Arbuthnot and Dr. Blaney are of opinion that a legislative enactment would be beneficial both to the factory owners and operatives. Sir Munguldas Nuthoobhoy, Messrs. Maxwell Morarjee, Goculdas, and Dinshaw Manocjee consider, on the other hand, that legislation in any shape is unnecessary. and in this opinion Mr. V. N. Mundlik also coincides. The Mill-owners' Association, from whose report we glean the above, state, "no action appears yet to have been taken by the Government of Bombay on the report of Commissioners, the evidence recorded in which points clearly to the conclusion that no enactment is requisite. Legislative interference of any kind would, your Committee consider, be most injurious to the manufacturing interests of India; and, if resorted to, will receive from them their strongest opposition." Yes, Mill-owners throughout the country ought to combine and oppose this measure, which is a mere pretence for throttling the new industrial enterprise in India.

A CORRESPONDENT addresses us the following letter:

DEAR SIR,—As a champion of the natives ever ready to advocate a just cause, permit me, through your columns to bring to the notice of Government the gross jobbery committed by Magistrate Collectors in the capacity of Chairman of District Road Cess Committee in the appointment of Engineers for the new Road Cess Department in Bengal, and the injustice done to the native community. Early this year a circular was issued by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor from the Public Works Department, reorganizing the Public Works Divisions and framing certain rules for the appointment of the Road Cess Engineers, wherein it was distinctly stated that their newly created department will form a fitting province for the employment of natives trained at the Calcutta Engineering College. This was quite fair, for the Road Cess being purely a local collection it should be devoted mainly for the good of the country and the people from among whom the Cess is raised

From what has been said above, one would be led to suppose that all, or almost all the appointment are given to natives, but would you, and your readers believe that quite contrary is the case. Most of the appointments (except in two Districts) are given to unemployed Mitchells* Moggans,†—men who have never seen the Calcutta Engineering College and perhaps no Engineering College at all! We also know that there were native candidates of ability to compete with these men, but in most instances their applications were not honored with even an acknowledgment! Judge you Mr. Editor, that all this happend in the face of the Government order noted above and as yet no notice is taken of the matter.

These appointments, by the ruling of the circulars, require Government sanction, and we fervently hope that our popular Lieutenant Governor will not allow these jobberies to be sealed with his sanction. It is said that Colonel Nicholls the Secretary, (who has the reputation of being a strict man) is averse to native interest and opposed to the appointmen of natives in the Engineer service, but will Sir Richard allow such a farce?

Yours &c.,
MACRO.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Someprokash* complains of the way in which the Road Cess is collected. The sircars come all on a sudden without any previous notice and the demand for payment is always accompanied with threats of distraint and seizure of property He also insinuates that the way in which the bills are worded do not shew for what period they are. A property assessed at Rs. 600 on which a tax of Rs. 3 is fixed is charged Rs. 1-8 for the first instalment. Yet from the dates of two successive bills one dated 1st April, and another 1st July, it would seem that the bills are drawn quarterly and the tax per quarter at Rs. 3 per annum should be 12 annas only. It suggests that the officers authorized to collect the tax should instruct these sircars to explain to the rate-payers the principle on which bills are drawn up and also to send a notice previous to the day on which payment will be demanded.

The *Education Gazette* accords its cordial assent to the proposition of Government Assurance of native lives which it says will be productive of infinite good to the middle classes.

The *Sahachar* sounds the trumpet of the approach of malarious fever to Calcutta and its suburbs. It is making fearful onslaught in the Suburbin villages of Tullah, Chitpore, Gouribarria, Soorra and Narcoldanrah and in Sambazar in the northern division of Calcutta. It warns the Government that if any action is to be taken, now is the time. When once the disease commences its ravages nothing will arrest its progress. The question now is whether the Government will be prompt in its action, or as is its wont, it will look on with folded hands on its breast the death of thousands of its subjects and then order an enquiry followed by voluminous reports. It indicates the sources which partly account for the progress of the disease in the cesspools containing fœtid stagnant water with vegetable decompositions on both sides of the Eastern Bengal Railway from Sealdah terminus to Dum-Dum Station in the unfinished new canal which runs from Ultadinghee to Balgachia and Tullah. One section of it is overgrown with Salt-water weeds and is the receptacle for the filth sweepings and carrion of all the neighbouring-villages. The next source is the stoppage of the drainage of the villages on the north of the Chitpore Branch Railway by the construction of that railroad, and the fourth is the discharge of the night soil and filth of Calcutta into the Salt-water lakes.

The same paper notices the visitation of malaria fever in the town of Konenuggur. There is not a home in which at least five to seven persons are not laid up. From eight to ten persons are dying daily. The disease has found an active cooperation in cholera which also has made its appearance.

The *Saptahik Samachar* reiterates the observations of the *Sahachar* with respect to the prevalence of malarious fever in the town of Konenuggur and adds to them his personal testimony of the harrowing sufferings of the people. It further says that the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore once made an enquiry about the number of sick in each family but his action stopped there.

Notice to Correspondents.

K. C. M. from Jovrampore,—Real merit is always modest and does not want a blow out.

RAMNARAIN BANERJEA.—Declined.

SPECTATORS from Dinnggur.—A newspaper is not the medium for the ventilation of your grievances.

TRUTH FROM SAUGOR.—Declined with thanks.

ENIGMA.—Would do well to advise the rate-payers of Cuttack to make a representation to the local Municipality.

C. L. AJMERE.—We do not insert homilies.

R. N. B. DARJEELING TERRAI.—Very jejune. Your catalogue of murders and homicides will not interest the general public.

G.—In our next.

Correspondence.

NATIVE GUARDS FOR RAILWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—By your editorial note in your issue of the 13th ultimo you appear to have some false data regarding the Natives and Europeans in the subordinate grades of the E. I. R. It is neither the Drivers nor Station-masters who are against the introduction of these men, but they are greatly against the *System of Coercion* used by the Officials to force the Native to take up the posts he has no wish to.

Ask any of the New Native Guards whether they would not prefer their old duties as Check Clerks and Booking Clerks with *no labrrisions toil no responsibility* except regarding the accounts they have to keep.

Your fellow countrymen have not been oppressed by their coadjutants, but *by those in authority*. These men's former duties as Check and Parcels Clerks with Salaries of 25 and 30 rupees a month required them only to sit and make entries of the various articles received and delivered and obtain signatures, receive and account for monies paid by passengers and others. There night duty was merely to attend the trains that arrived during the night, some extra work was certainly imposed upon them, but they had ample time to take their meals, &c. according to the custom, of their caste. Their future prospects were the posts of assistant Station-masters, Goods Clerks &c. with Salaries from 35 to 40 and finally to become Station-masters in Charge on Salaries from 50 to 80 Rupees Of course several years elapses before they arrive at the last named salary but all the others are within easy reach.

He has to sacrifice these prospects and take up duties unsuited to his habits &c. 10 to 12 and 15 to 18 hours of duty at one time no rest each Station turn here and there receive this waggon, note its conditions, that is, whether correctly secured, and the labels tally with the instructions he has to arrange these in order. Deliver waggons, issue orders to his Driver, must have a fair knowledge of speed, to give correct signals &c. and has to receive Goods, Letter, Parcels, and between Stations enter and check the two latter, keep notes of time and detentions, and has all this extra fatigue coupled with extra hours of duty and no relief, no cessation

And for which duties he recieves Rupees 40 per Mensem. On arrival at his destination he has all his report to enter in books, provided for the purpose, and some 4 different sheets to fill in relating to time, Parcels and goods, letters, and waggons received and detached.

I ask Mr. Editor when all these duties and long hours, without food—for his caste precludes him taking food only under conditions—are taken into consideration is it to be wondered he has been *found asleep on duty* or that he has failed. I assert had it not been for assistance rendered by Station-masters, both European and Native who are held responsible to get the trains away, and for drivers to save reports, for time that could not be accounted for, these men would not have got the trains along, but the Driver did not believe being kept only hours beyond their time and then have to return back without proper rest, so they had to give assistance out of respect for the Native Guard, but to get home and obtain food and rest, as it was, it was no unfrequent circumstance for our pick-up trains to be 7 and 8 hours beyond their time.

Satisfy yourself on these matters and enquire how many volunteers and how many Men coerced—to use a lighter term, compelled, I ought to say to take up these duties. And you will soon discover which predominate there are not 50 on the line and even 40 of that number have been compelled—against their wishes to take up their duties. Also believe me Mr. Editor I could not commit a much greater crime than report a Native Guard.

Yours &c.,
T. G.

THE RAMGOPAUL GHOSE MEMORIAL FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—With reference to the letter signed "A Grateful Bengali," and published in your issue of the 25th instant, I, as one of the secretaries to the Ram Gopaul Ghose Memorial Fund, readily vouchsafe the information he solicits. I may premise by stating that the British Indian Association has had nothing whatever to do with the fund; of course, the meeting was held at the hall of the association, and some of its leading members took part in it, have seats in the committee, and have subscribed to the fund, as they usually do such things in all public movements connected with the welfare and good name of the country. But the association in its corporate capacity has had no connexion with the fund.

At the memorial meeting the following resolution was adopted,—"That by way of memorial a portrait of the lamented deceased be hung in a suitable public place, and a set of rooms be erected at the Nimtollah Burning Ghaut to be called after his name, for the accomodation of persons accompanying dead bodies for cremation, and that subscriptions be invited in furtherance of this object."

Subscriptions were accordingly invited, but I am sorry to say that, notwithstanding all the efforts we have made, we have not been able to raise more than Rs. 8,790, represented by not more than 38 subscribers, among whom again are four European gentlemen. I may mention that myself, my colleague Baboo Tarini Churn Banerjee, the late Baboo Issur Chunder Ghosal, and Baboo Kristo Das Pal went about for subscriptions, and in this work we had the hearty co-operation of Rajah Kamul Krishna Bahadoor, who also offered to make up any reasonable deficiency, if a sufficient sum was raised, but our success in the undertaking was not such as we could wish. If the few leading native gentlemen of Calcutta who generally head the subscription list in every public movement had not come forward with their wonted liberality, I doubt whether we would have been able to raise even the sum of Rs. 8,790 which we have. Of the sum subscribed Rs. 4,171 have been realized, and deducting therefrom the charges of collection, advertisement, printing, &c., amounting to Rs. 719-8-9 we have a balance of Rs. 3,351-7-3, which is deposited in the Bank of Bengal in the joint names of the two Honorary Secretaries *viz*; myself and Baboo Tarinee Churn Banerjee.

In 1869 or 1870 on behalf of the committee, the late Baboo Issur Chunder Ghosal and Baboo Kristo Das Pal waited upon Mr. Hogg, the Chairman of the Justices and Commissioner of Police, and solicited him to move the Government of Bengal, to allow them a site close to the Nimtollah Burning Ghaut, for the erection of the rest-house, and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Grey, was kind enough to comply with their application, and conveyed his orders through Mr Hogg. The committee also obtained estimates, the lowest, of which was between Rs. 11,000 and 12,000. As the amount then raised was a little more than Rs. 7,000, they could not at once carry out the project. They endeavoured to obtain further subscriptions, but the response to their

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* Appointed District Engineer of Rajshaye on Rs. 500.
† Do. Do. Moorshedabad on Rs. 500.

ppeal was not encouraging. Opinion was also divided as to the utility of the rest house for persons carrying the dead without a house for the reception of the dying or Gungajatree patients. In the meantime, the Strand Bank lands were made over to the Port Commissioners without any reservation of the site proposed to be given, but not formally conveyed to the committee, in consequence of their inability to raise the requisite fund.

It now appears that the present Burning Ghaut will be removed on towards the river, and the enclosure will provide accomodation for persons carrying the dead. It is not, therefore, necessary to erect the rest-house originally contemplated. It is to be regretted that, owing to the illness of my co-Secretary, our action has been postponed for some time, but as it is now clear that there is no hope of raising the required fund for the construction of the rest-house, and as this want is to be supplied by the new enclosure, it is for the subscribers to consider to what purpose the fund already realized should be applied.—Yours, &c.,

RAJENDRA DUTT,
Joint-Secretary to the Ram Gopal Ghose Memorial Fund.

Calcutta, 28th October, 1875.

THE LAW OF MINORITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—The passing of the minority bill, by which a person cannot exercise the right of manhood unless he completes his 21st year, has caused great consternations among the landed aristocracy. The object which the Government has in view in adopting that measure has been misconstrued and men are variously interpreting the motive which led the Government to extend the period of minority from 18 to 21 years. Even the Maharaja of Vizianagram, who is supposed to be the prime mover of this law shares the ill-will of those whom it affects. No one, however, having a particle of sense will ever question the propriety of this extension. Maturer years will add greater experience and hence check many of the evils which arise now-a-days, from the mismanagement of estates by our native rulers. It is a well known proverb that "*experientia docet stultus.*" How many painful instances we have of estates utterly ruined by falling into the hands of raw and inexperienced youths! It is almost next to impossible for an uneducated young man of fortune, surrounded as he must necessarily be on all sides by flatterers, and having nothing but his own inclinations to consult, to keep himself within the proper bounds of justice and humanity, unless he is extremely keen-sighted. He is a mere tool in the hands of his courtiers, who are, for the most part, men of no good principles, and try to attain their ends even at the sacrifice of their masters' interests. It is a matter of fact that native rulers, who seldom exercise their own discretion, lose even the power of distinguishing right from wrong, owing to a blind adhesion to the opinions of their counsellors. These men, on the other hand, whose sole object of life is to gain the favour of their lord, will do anything they can to please him. They will call a thing beautiful or ugly, old or new, black or white, to meet the views of their master. There are no doubt some brilliant exceptions to this. Statesmen like Sir T. Madhava Rao, and Raja Dinker Rao are ornaments to their class. The greatest amount of prudence and foresight, is however, required in a ruler on whom depends the fate of a large number of people. He must be qualified to read the innermost soul of his subjects when they try their best to dissemble. He must not be carried away by their flatteries but know the difference between husk and corn. No doubt a ruler, however good, must require the assistance of able counsellors for, "*Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit*," Both must combine to constitute a good Government. A sound education is *sine qua non* in a good ruler. It is indeed satisfactory to observe that the British Government has not overlooked this fact. The establishment of Wards' Institutions in different provinces for the training of the sons of Rajas and zemindars is a blessing which we cannot too highly appreciate. By imparting education to these potent Rajas and zemindars the Government has done incalculable good to the people. It is, however, a matter of great surprise that the greatest discontent consequent upon the extension of minority prevails in Ward's Institutions. All Wards murmur at the severity of the Government in prolonging the period of their residence, at a distance from their native country, without friends and relations. I had an occasion to talk with some Wards on the subject and was shocked to hear their opinions upon it. One of them observed that men seldom lived up to the age of half a century and even in this short period there were so many pit-falls that one was likely to fall into one or the other. If under such circumstances nearly half the portion of life were spent in a "remote unfriendly" confinement (as he could not find a better word to designate his residence in a Wards Institute) when was one to enjoy his property? Another remarked, with a deep sigh that he did not expect to get possession of his estate as he would probably not live up to the age when he will be legally entitled to assume the charge of it. I do not write this because I attach any weight to the objection but simply to show in what light Wards view this extension. Superintendents of Wards' Institutions should try to impress thoroughly on the minds of their Wards the utility and importance of this news by pointing out to them the manifold advantage they are to reap by it in after-life.

Yours truly,
NAGENDRA NATH KAR.

Benares, the 8th September 1875.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
H. T. Prinsep Esq. C. S. Baugalore	13	4	0
Rungpore Public Library	10	0	0
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,, Sreesh Chunder Gungooly, Pubna	6	10	0
,, Rajcoomer Ghose, Kantipota	10	0	0
,, Ramkissen Missre, Sumbulpore	6	10	0
,, Moheshchunder Chuckerbutty, Allahabad	10	0	0
,, Jodoeputty Chatterjee, Edilpore	13	4	0
,, Ramanath Dey, Lucknow	6	10	0
,, Doorgachurn Rokhit, Benares	5	0	0
,, Johorilal Chowdhury, Shaharah	10	0	0
,, Brojomohun Mittra, Muttra	13	4	0
,, Mothooradass, Muzuffurpore	6	10	0
,, Denonath Mookerjee Rai Bahadoor & Pachamba Giridi	13	0	0
,, Lallgopaul Sen, Bankipore	9	0	0
,, Ramgopaul Sandyal, Krishnaghur	4	0	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*October* 27, 1875.

GENERAL.—The *2nd October* 1875.—Baboo Poorna Chunder Ghose, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Rajshaye and Cooch Behar, is appointed temporarily to be Manager of the Chaklajat Zemindaries in Julpigoree, belonging to the minor Rajah of Cooch Behar.

The 21st October 1875.—Mr. T. B. Lane, C.S., reported his return from furlough on the 21st October 1875.

Mr. John Whitmore, C.S., Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is posted to Doomka, in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Mr. Whitmore is appointed to act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade.

Mr. William Miller Smith, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Doomka, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is appointed to be temporarily a Deputy Settlement Officer in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

This cancels the orders of the 30th August last, appointing Mr. J. F. Blumhardt to a Deputy Settlement Officer.

The 22nd October 1875.—Baboo Jadub Chunder Gossami, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 for the purpose of acquiring lands required for public purposes in the district of Fureedpore.

Mr. John Whitmore, C.S., is allowed subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, with effect from the 17th instant, to enable him to join his appointment on his return from furlough.

The 26th October 1875.—The following officers have been allowed extensions of leave by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India for the periods mentioned against their respective names :—

Messrs. H. G. Cooke, C.S., Assistant Magistrate and Collector six months, on medical certificate. W. K. Clementson, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, three months, on medical certificate. C. Miller, Magistrate, Calcutta Police, nine month's furlough.

Mr. R. W. Wilson, C.S., First Inspector of Registration Offices, who reported his arrival at Bombay on return from furlough on the 21st October 1875, is allowed subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, to enable him to rejoin his appointment.

POLICE.—*The 22nd October* 1875.—An extension of leave for four months on medical certificate has been granted by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India to Mr. H. Dawson of the Bengal Police.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—*The 26th October* 1875.—The privilege leave for six weeks granted to the Reverend W. C. Bromehead, Senior Chaplain, St. John's, Calcutta, under orders of the 5th October 1875, will take effect from the 12th idem.

EDUCATION.—*The 20th October* 1875.—The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the Singbhoom District School Committee :—

Mr. M. W. Voss, Baboo Jodu Nath Sett.

The 25th October 1875.—Baboo Bama Churn Banerjea, B.L., is appointed to be member of the amalgamated District School Committee of Hooghly and Howrah.

MEDICAL.—*The 19th October* 1875.—Mr. Seth Thomas Apcar is appointed to be Secretary to and Treasurer of the Aratoon Apcar Dispensary at Garden Reach in the 24-Pergunnahs, Mr. T. A. Apcar, deceased.

The 22nd October 1875.—Assistant Surgeon Baney Madhub Doss, attached to the Bettiah Charitable Dispensary, is allowed Leave for two months, under Section 21 Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Assistant Surgeon Suresh Chunder Ghose, a Supernumerary at the Presidency, is appointed temporarily to have medical charge of the Bettiah Charitable Dispensary during the absence, on leave, of Assistant Surgeon Baney Madhub Doss, or until further orders.

The 25th October 1875.—First Grade Assistant Surgeon Greesh Chunder Dutt is appointed to have medical charge of the Charitable Dispensary at Beauiia in Rajshahye, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment.

CUSTOMS.—*The 22nd October* 1875.—Mr. Thomas Bruce Lane, C.S., is re-appointed to act as Collector of Customs, Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. A. Crawford, or until further orders.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

A Special General Meeting of the Justices of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday the 17th November 1875 at 11 O'clock A. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To fix under Section XI of Act VI of 1863, (B. C.) the salary of the Vice-Chairman to be appointed in succession to Baboo Omesh Chunder Dutt resigned.

2. To nominate a proper person to be Vice Chairman of the Justices under Section VIII of Act VI of 1863 (B. C.)

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Justices of the Peace.

NOTICE.

For the information of the Public it is hereby notified that the Illumination Committee has been informed by the Government of Bengal that on the night of the Illuminations H. R. H. the Prince of Wales will take the following route.

1 Government House, through
2 Old Course to
3 Race Strand to witness the display of fireworks and back to
4 South and Old Course into
5 Chowringhee *via* Outram Statue Road
6 Dhurmotollah Road
7 Wellington Street
8 College Street
9 Colootellah
10 Lower Chitpore Road
11 Lall Bazar
12 Dalhousie Sqr. East
13 Old Court House Street
14 Government Place North
15 Wellesley Place
16 Dalhousie Sqr. South
17 Hare Street
18 Strand Road to Baboo Ghat
19 North of Eden Gardens
20 Government House.

STUART HOGG
President of the Executive Illumination Committee

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Presidency College, the 29th May 1875. 133

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Acting Secy. Calcutta Races,
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„ Brojonath Mookerjea of Krishnagar	100
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„ Kallykissen Tagore	2,500
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